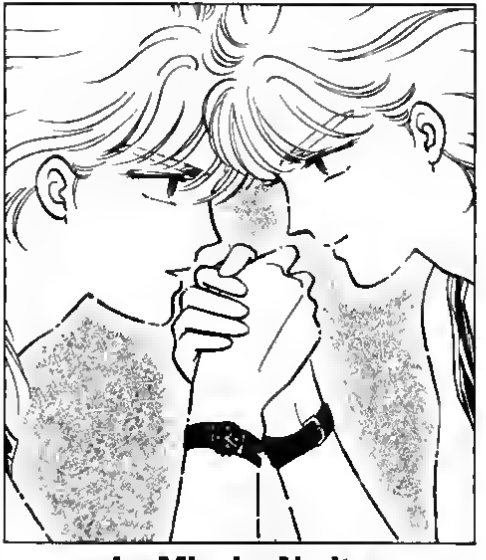
CIPHER

Minako Narita

2

CIPHER

Vol. 2



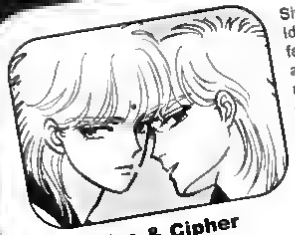
by Minako Narita

CIPHER

サイファ

Scene2. GRANDMA CLOCK IN HAND

CIPHER BIOS



Siva & Cipher

Siva (Jake) & Cipher (Roy) identical twin brothers made famous by their childhood acting success Now they share not just a face, but a single identity Trading off attending school and acting auditions, it is nearly impossible to tell them apart Or is it?

Anise

Schoolmate of Siva (and Cipher) She is intrigued by their shared identity and becomes closer to the twins to discover the purpose of their secret

Rob

Anise's dad who she lives with He is very supportive of everything his daughter does, and reluctantly allows her to move in with the twins to satisfy her curiosity

Jessica

Anise's mother A dead ringer for Madonne, she takes care of Anise's brother Martin Even though Anise lives with her dad, she and her mom remain close

HELLO!!
NARITA HERE IN THE OFFICE WE CAN'T DO WITHOUT MUSIC. NOT ONLY DOES IT PUT US IN A GOOD MOOD IT INSPIRES A LOT OF IDEAS. MUSIC MAGAZINES ARE A RESOURCE FOR US. THE CLOTHES. THE POSES... THEY'RE ALL SO COOL.
TO CREATE CIPHER AND SIVA'S CHARACTERS, WE TOOK IMAGE FROM LIMAHL AND TOM BAILEY.

THE BEAUTIFUL TOM BAILEY

LIMAHL. LONG AGO.

SO AS HOMAGE TO MINAKO'S FAVORITE MUSICIANS I'LL DRAW CARICATURES OF CIPHER AND SIVA POSING LIKE THEM. THE BACKGROUND MUSIC IS "LAY YOUR HANDS ON ME."
LET'S TRY IT NOW!!

A SPECIAL

SIVA

Q & A

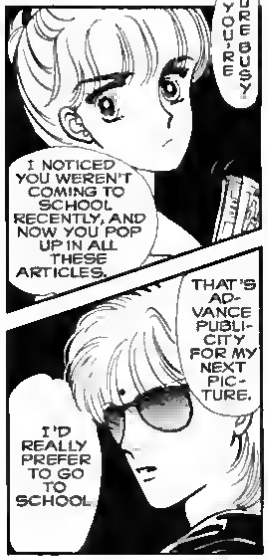
Real Name. Jake Rang
Birth date February 4th
17 years old.
Birthplace: Brooklyn, N.Y.
Height & Weight 6'2" 143 lbs.
Hair & Eye Color: Dirty blonde, gray eyes
Home A two-bedroom apartment in Manhattan

Favorites
Movie Never Ending Story
Actor Bill Murray
Food: Vegetarian pizza
Hobby: Flea market shopping
Pets A cat named Elly

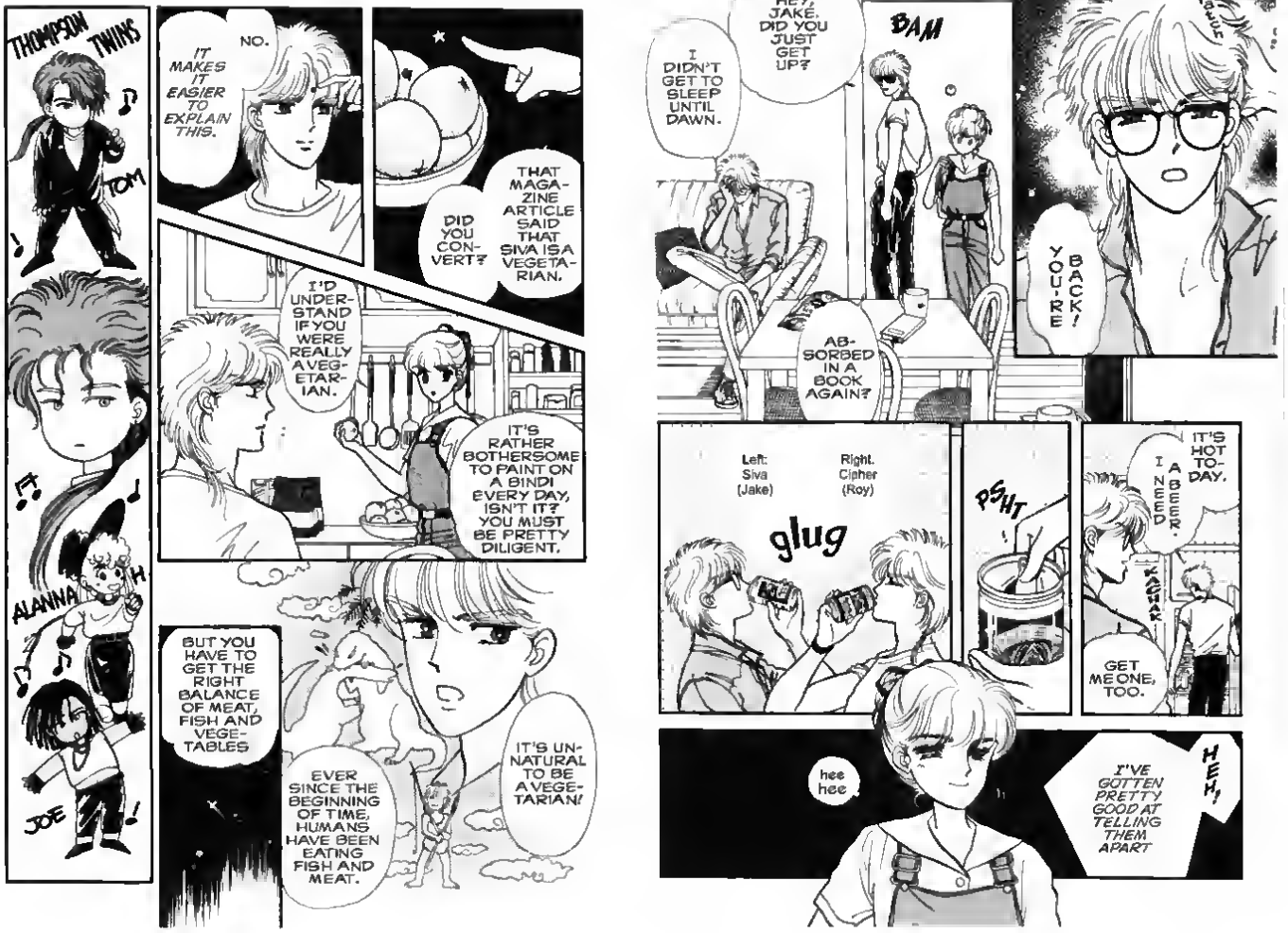
L.A.? LUCKY YOU!
WE'RE WRAPPING UP SHOOTING ON THE T.V. SERIES EARLY, AND I'LL SPEND THE WHOLE SUMMER IN L.A. WORKING ON THE FILM.
BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT LUXURY.
MAGAZINE
IT SURE LOOKS LIKE HIM.
YEAH, IT DOES.
YOU DON'T THINK...
OMIGOD
I'LL BE THERE ALL SUMMER
SOON AS SCHOOL LETS OUT
WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING FOR L.A.?

WHY DON'T WE GET BOTH?
YEAH.
WE WANT 'EM BOTH, RIGHT?
THE NEW YORKER
PRINCE

HI.
PRINCE


YOU'RE SURE BUSY.
I NOTICED YOU WEREN'T COMING TO SCHOOL RECENTLY, AND NOW YOU POP UP IN ALL THESE ARTICLES.
THAT'S AD-VANCE PUBLI-CITY FOR MY NEXT PIC-TURE.
I'D REALLY PREFER TO GO TO SCHOOL

SOR-RY I KEPT YOU WAIT-ING.
THE MEET-ING WENT OVER.

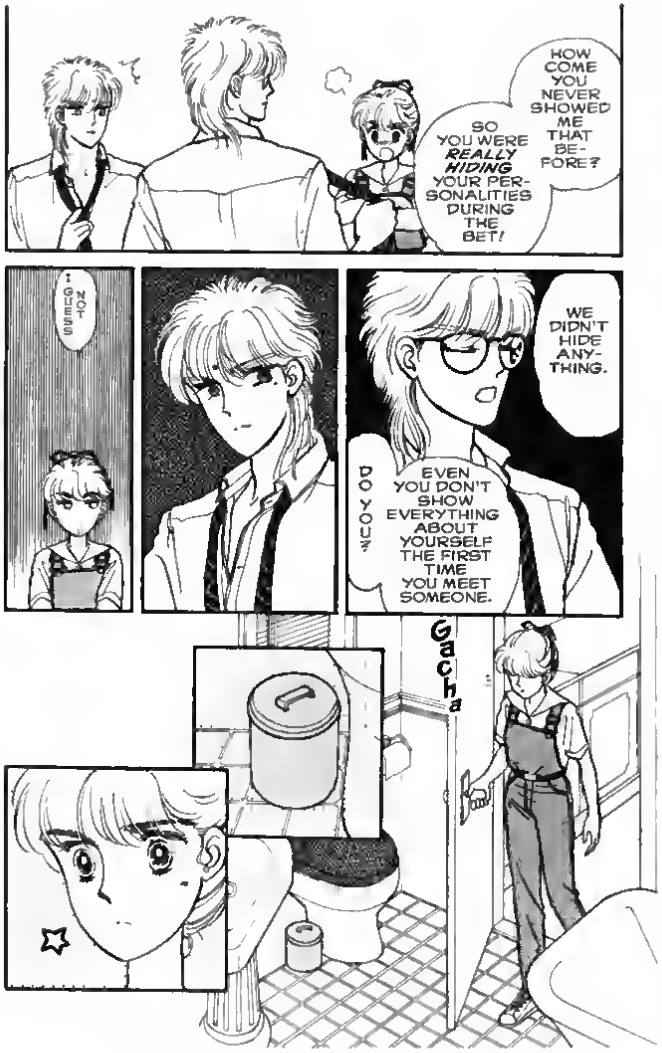

THOMPSON TWINS
TOM
ALANNA
JOE
NO.
IT MAKES IT EASIER TO EXPLAIN THIS.
DID YOU CONVERT?
THAT MAGAZINE ARTICLE SAID THAT SIVA IS A VEGETARIAN.
I'D UNDERSTAND IF YOU WERE REALLY A VEGETARIAN.
IT'S RATHER BOTHERSOME TO PAINT ON A BINDI EVERY DAY, ISN'T IT? YOU MUST BE PRETTY DILIGENT.
BUT YOU HAVE TO GET THE RIGHT BALANCE OF MEAT, FISH AND VEGETABLES
EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME, HUMANS HAVE BEEN EATING FISH AND MEAT.
IT'S UNNATURAL TO BE A VEGETARIAN!
HEY, JAKE. DID YOU JUST GET UP?
I DIDN'T GET TO SLEEP UNTIL DAWN.
BAM
ABSORBED IN A BOOK AGAIN?
BUSBUH
YOU'RE BACK!
Left: Siva (Jake)
Right: Cipher (Roy)
glug
PSHT
IT'S HOT TODAY.
I NEED A BEER.
KASHR
GET ME ONE, TOO.
hee hee
I'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD AT TELLING THEM APART
HEH,

OH, YEAH.
LIKE THIS?
WOW!
EH?
shuffle
shuffle
WHAT ABOUT THAT THING PRINCE DOES?
THE FULL SPLITS.
UH.
-SCUSE ME.
YEAH!
THAT'S MY SPECIALTY.
WANT ME TO TEACH YOU?
KEEPING THE FAITH!
AND HOW ABOUT BILLY JOEL?
YEAH, THAT ONE!

We are the world...
HE'S GOING INTO MICHAEL JACKSON MODE AGAIN!
GACK!
oven mitts
DREAM ON!
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD BE THAT COOL!
HUH?
... PLOP
MICHAEL JACKSON

INSTEAD OF WASTING MY TIME TRYING TO KEEP UP
THIS WAY, I CAN SIT BACK AND WATCH.
HE HAS TO DANCE TO WHATEVER VIDEO COMES NEXT
HOW?
OKAY!
LET'S LET MTV BE THE D.J.

OKAY.
LET'S START FROM HERE.
NO! LIKE THIS!
HUH?
?
I'LL PLAY THE TAPES.
NOW, SHOW ME THE WHOLE THING.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AH, GIVE IT UP.
I'M WASTING YOUR TIME


HOW COME YOU NEVER SHOWED ME THAT BEFORE?
SO YOU WERE REALLY HIDING YOUR PERSONALITIES DURING THE BET!
I GUESS NOT.
WE DIDN'T HIDE ANYTHING.
EVEN YOU DON'T SHOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF THE FIRST TIME YOU MEET SOMEONE.
DO YOU?
Gacha

THOSE TWO.
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN
EURYTHMICS
PHIL COLLINS
YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING!
INCREDIBLE!
THAT WAS GREAT!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU.
OH, KNOCK IT OFF.
WOW!

New Flavor
YOU ARE AWFUL QUIET, WHAT CIPHER. YOU WATCHING?
YUP.
REALLY? GREAT! WHICH ONE'S GOING? IT'S CIPHER'S TURN, RIGHT?
NAH, TOMORROW'S A SCHOOL DAY.
HEY, SIVA.
I CAN'T HEAR A WORD YOU'RE SAYING.
KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE SUNGLASSES.
HEY, HEY, HEY, BRO!
BUY IT FOR ME, WILL YA?
?
CLAP!
HERE'S THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER.
STILL HAVE WORK TOMORROW? SKIPPING SCHOOL?
OH, WELL.
I'LL LET THEM THINK THEY FOOLED ME.
tee hee

I JUST WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY C'MON, JAKE. JUST ONE BOX.
DARN RIGHT I'M NOT! YOU DON'T NEED IT!
SO YOU'RE REALLY NOT GONNA DO IT?!
YEAH.
DO YOU CONTROL THE PURSE STRINGS, SIVA?
SOMETIMES CIPHER FALLS IN LOVE WITH BATHROOM FIXTURES OR WHATNOT.
ALL I WANT IS A BOX OF CAKE MIX!
WHERE D' HAT MIKE COME FROM?
IF HE COULD, HE'D SPEND US BLIND IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
YEAH. THEN HE COMPLETELY REDECORATES THE PLACE.
Cipher's purchases
more new stuff
I'M NOT THE ONE BUYING ALL THE NEW ELECTRONICS!
HEY, THAT'S NOT TRUE!

C'MON! BUY IT FOR ME!
BEA, PAL?
I HEAR NOTHING NOTHING!
DON'T YOU THINK IT LOOKS GOOD?
THAT NEW CAKE MIX LOOKS REALLY TASTY.
DON'T BE A JERK. JUST BUY IT ALREADY.
IS THAT HOW YOU TREAT SOMEONE ASKING YOU A FAVOR?
YOU HEARD EVERY WORD, DIDN'T YOU?
NO WAY!
C'MON, BRO! BUY ME THE CAKE MIX. PLEASE!
please, please, please!

GET OFF MY PAPER
SHE ACCEPTS SIVA AS A BOSS.
SHE OBEYS WHATEVER SIVA SAYS.
ELLY CAN CLEARLY TELL THE TWO OF THEM APART.
SIT UP PROPERLY IF YOU WANT A SNACK
BUT ELLY DOESN'T LISTEN TO CIPHER AT ALL.
-- loves the newspaper

AND CIPHER FAVORS HIS RIGHT
BUT SIVA FAVORS HIS LEFT HAND.
THEY'RE BOTH AMBIDEXTROUS

CIPHER PREFERS TV DRAMAS.
SIVA PREFERS TO READ BOOKS

I'M JUST WATCHING OUT FOR YOUR HEALTH.
SEE?
LISTEN UP, ROY!
BUT THAT STUFF IS JUNK FOOD.
IF IT WAS SOMETHING GOOD FOR YOU, I'D BE ALL FOR IT.

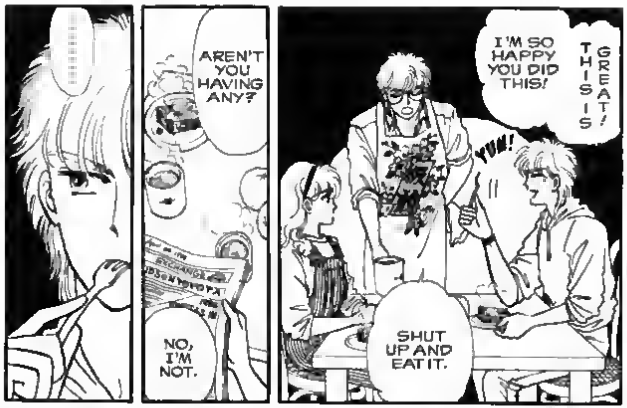
GOOD
ALL RIGHT, JAKE.

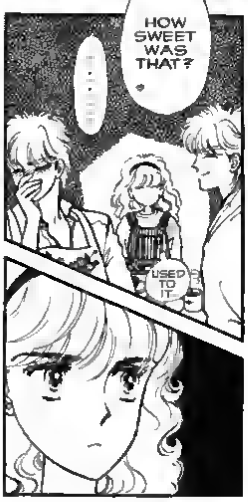
I CAN'T LET YOU OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR A SEC-OND
WHAT?
THAT'S STRANGE.
WHEN YOU'RE ALONE, YOU'RE SO ADULT.
BUT WHEN YOU'RE WITH SIVA, YOU BECOME A CHILD. WHY IS THAT?
ZERIA
HEY!

CIPHER IS THE ONE WHO LAUGHS AT HIS OWN STO-RIES
YES, HOW VERY AMUS-ING.
SHE SPILLED HER MILK DISH, AND..
heh
BY THE WAY, JAKE.
DID YOU SEE WHAT ELLY DID?
SIVA DOES STRANGE THINGS OUT OF THE BLUE
THERE'S A SWIRL IN YOUR HAIR
POK
nonchalant
?
?
OKAY, I WON'T TELL YOU.
HEY, I'M SOR-RY.
GO ON, TELL ME.
?
GRADUALLY, THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM ARE BECOMING CLEARER

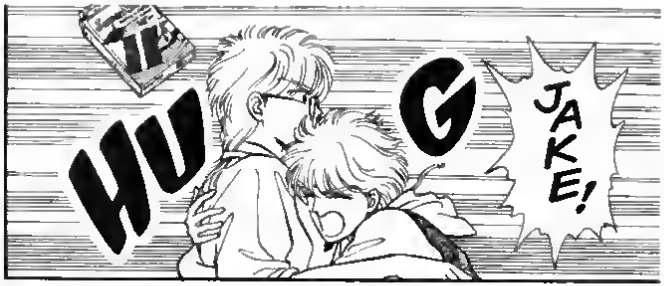
WE'RE HOME!
SLAM
.....
WHEN SIVA SAID NO, HE REALLY WAS THINKING ABOUT MY BEST INTERESTS.
THANKS.
SO I DON'T NEED IT.
SOME-THING SMELLS GOOD.
Mmm!
HEY, YOU.
JUST THIS ONCE.

WHEN SIVA'S AROUND, HE'S SO MEAN THAT IT WARPS ME.
OH. I SEE.
FROM THE GOSSIP MAGAZINES, YOU'D NEVER IMAGINE SIVA WAS LIKE THIS
HEH
PLEASE BUY ME THE CAKE MIX!
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE BEFORE WE WERE BORN.
I GUESS WE SORT OF DIVIDE UP THE ROLES.
THANKS.
BUT NO THANKS.
OH, CI-PHER.
I'LL BUY THE CAKE MIX, IF YOU WANT.

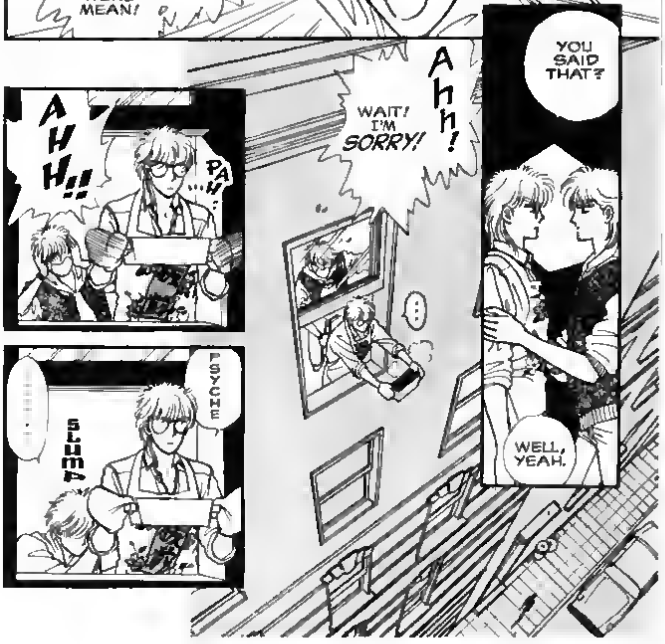

AREN'T YOU HAVING ANY?
NO, I'M NOT.
I'M SO HAPPY YOU DID THIS!
THIS IS GREAT!
YUM!
SHUT UP AND EAT IT.


HOW SWEET WAS THAT?
USED TO IT.

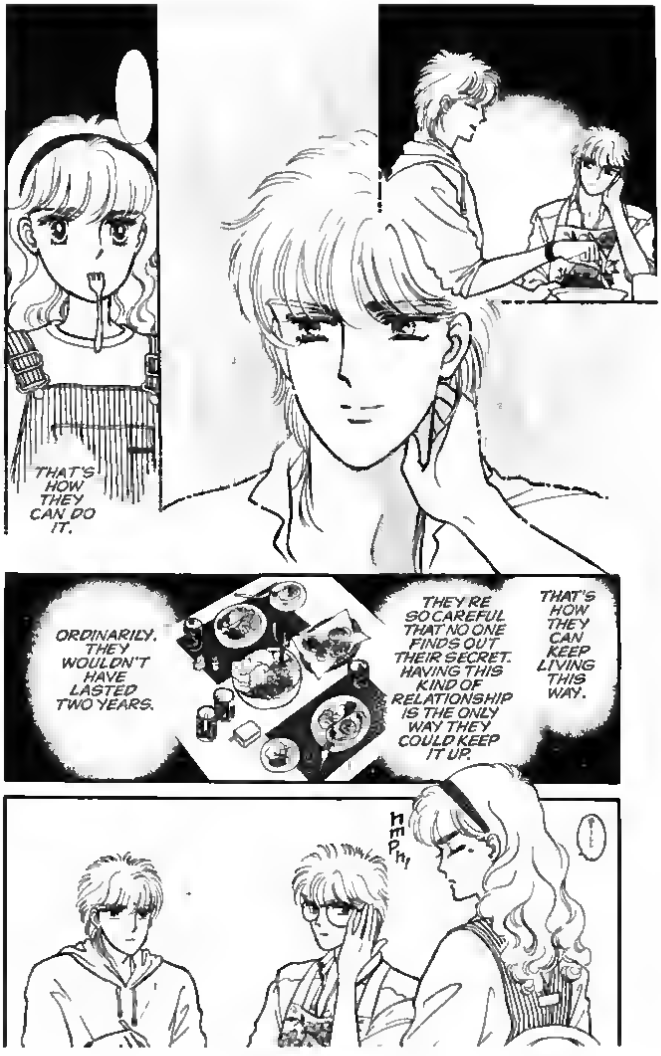
Pah
UM!


HUG
JAKE!

I'M SORRY I SAID THAT YOU WERE MEAN!
I LOVE YOU, JAKE!


AHH!!
PAH
SLUMP
PSYCHE
WAIT! I'M SORRY!
Ahh!
YOU SAID THAT?
WELL, YEAH.

hm...
ANISE...
DON'T TELL THE FANS THAT SIVA MOANED OVER A BOX OF CAKE MIX.
I GUESS IT'S NATURAL THAT THEY GET ALONG SO WELL.
HEY, SIVA. IS IT OKAY IF I COME OVER?
YEAH.
CAN I SEE IT? I MISSED THE LAST EPISODE.
WOW. THAT'S THE WHOLE T.V. SERIES, EAST OF EDEN.


THAT'S HOW THEY CAN DO IT.
ORDINARILY, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED TWO YEARS.
THEY'RE SO CAREFUL THAT NO ONE FINDS OUT THEIR SECRET. HAVING THIS KIND OF RELATIONSHIP IS THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD KEEP IT UP.
THAT'S HOW THEY CAN KEEP LIVING THIS WAY.
HMPH!
!!!

OH!
USA
AFRICA
CLACK
.....!

CALEB.
YOUR CHILD WILL LIVE ON.
YAY!
GO AHEAD.
USA
AFRIC
IT'S A GREAT SERIES, ISN'T IT?
HE'S THE ONLY REMNANT YOU'LL LEAVE IN THIS WORLD.
PLEASE HELP THAT CHILD.
PLEASE GIVE HIM A CHANCE.
SO THAT HE CAN LIVE AS MAN.

STAY IN HERE FOR A BIT.
SIVA DOESN'T CRY WHEN PEOPLE ARE AROUND
HE DOESN'T EVEN CRY AROUND ME.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN CIPHER'S HEAD FROM THIS ANGLE. HIS DIRTY BLONDE HAIR LOOKS SO SOFT...AND HIS EYELASHES ARE SO LONG.
CREAK
HIS HAIR

SPLASH
OH. SORRY.
twist
DON'T STARE AT ME LIKE THAT.
USA AFRICA
CIPHER?
I CAN'T HANDLE STUFF LIKE THAT.
I GET ALL EMOTIONAL.
ANISE.
I'LL GO SEE WHAT SIVA...
gulp
USA AFRICA

I GUESS IT'S OKAY IF YOU SEE IT.
BUT DON'T TELL ANY-BODY.
IS THAT WHY YOU STARTED WEAR-ING A BINDI?
IS IT A BURN?
YES.

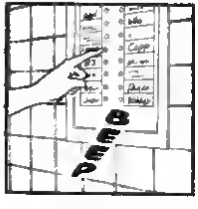
USA
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDER-STAND HOW SIVA FEELS. I WANT TO TWIST HIS HAIR
hee hee
USA AFRICA

A SCAR?... IS THAT
USA
twitch

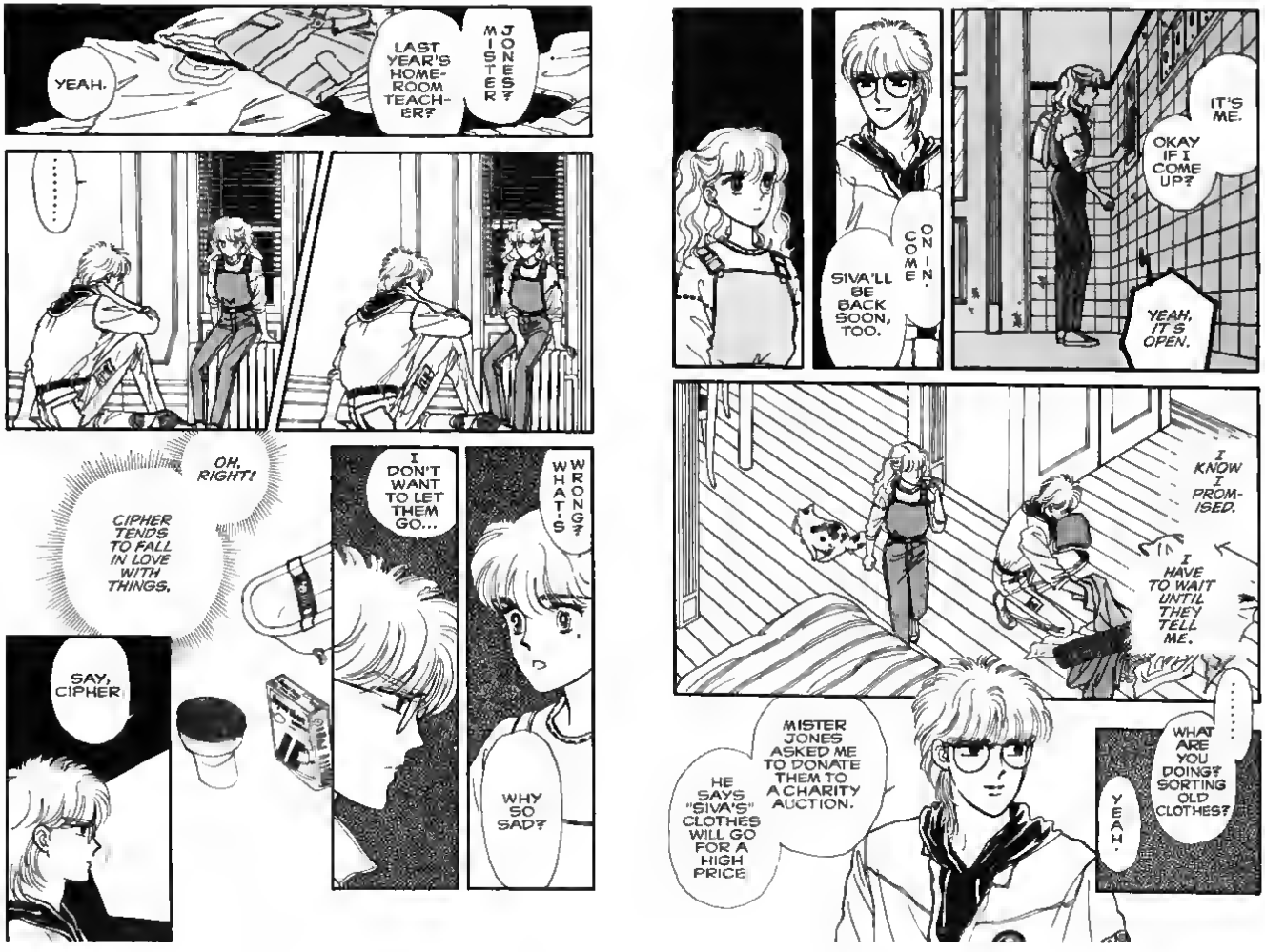
IS THAT WHY ONE HAD TO RETIRE?
USA for AFRICA
WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE FILMING?
THEY COVER IT UP WITH MAKE-UP.
IS THAT IT?
IF A WOUND LIKE THAT DIDN'T HEAL, THERE'S NO WAY BOTH OF YOU COULD WORK!
YOU'RE BREAKING THE RULES.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, ANISE?
oh...

WHAT... IN A FIGHT?
I GOT JABBED WITH A CIGARETTE.
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IT WAS OVER TWO YEARS AGO, BUT IT STILL HASN'T GONE AWAY
DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.
"DON'T SWALLOW THE BLOOD, OR YOU'LL THROW UP."
USA for AFRICA
...SOMETHING LIKE THIS WILL HAPPEN AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE.
NO MATTER HOW WELL BOYS ARE RAISED...

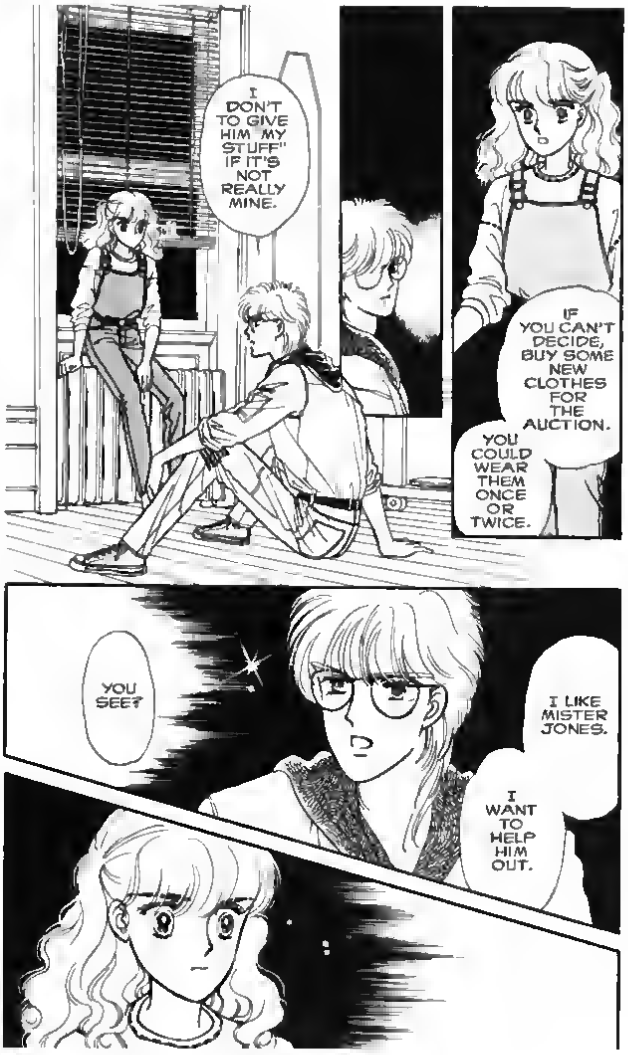
KEEP THE FAITH


BEEP BEEP

USA for AFRICA
NO QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PAST.
AFTER "EAST OF EDEN" YOU'RE PLAYING BILLY JOEL?
YEAH, TO CHEER US UP.
If it seems like I've been lost in last remember


MISTER JONES?
LAST YEAR'S HOME-ROOM TEACHER?
YEAH.
.....
OH, RIGHT!
CIPHER TENDS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THINGS.
I DON'T WANT TO LET THEM GO...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY SO SAD?
SAY, CIPHER
COME ON IN.
SIVA'LL BE BACK SOON, TOO.
IT'S ME.
OKAY IF I COME UP?
YEAH, IT'S OPEN.
I KNOW I PROM-ISED.
I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THEY TELL ME.
MISTER JONES ASKED ME TO DONATE THEM TO A CHARITY AUCTION.
HE SAYS "SIVA'S" CLOTHES WILL GO FOR A HIGH PRICE
YEAH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? SORTING OLD CLOTHES?
.....

SLAM
WEL-COME HOME, JAKE.
klak klak
HAVE YOU EATEN YET?
NO, WE WAITED.
CLICK

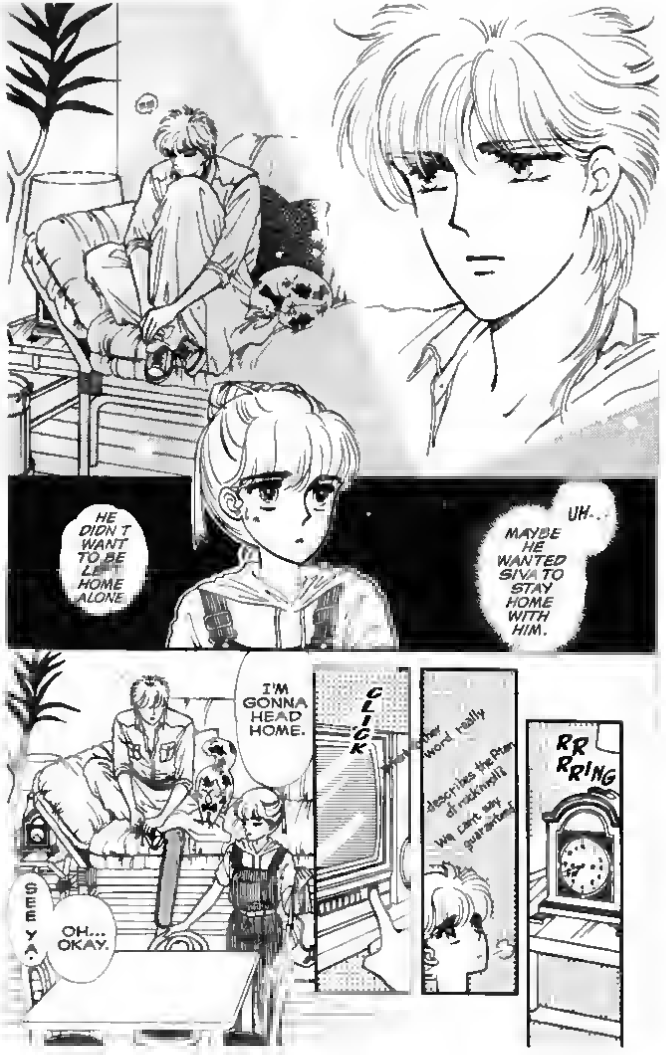

I DON'T TO GIVE HIM MY STUFF" IF IT'S NOT REALLY MINE.
IF YOU CAN'T DECIDE, BUY SOME NEW CLOTHES FOR THE AUCTION.
YOU COULD WEAR THEM ONCE OR TWICE.
YOU SEE?
I LIKE MISTER JONES.
I WANT TO HELP HIM OUT.

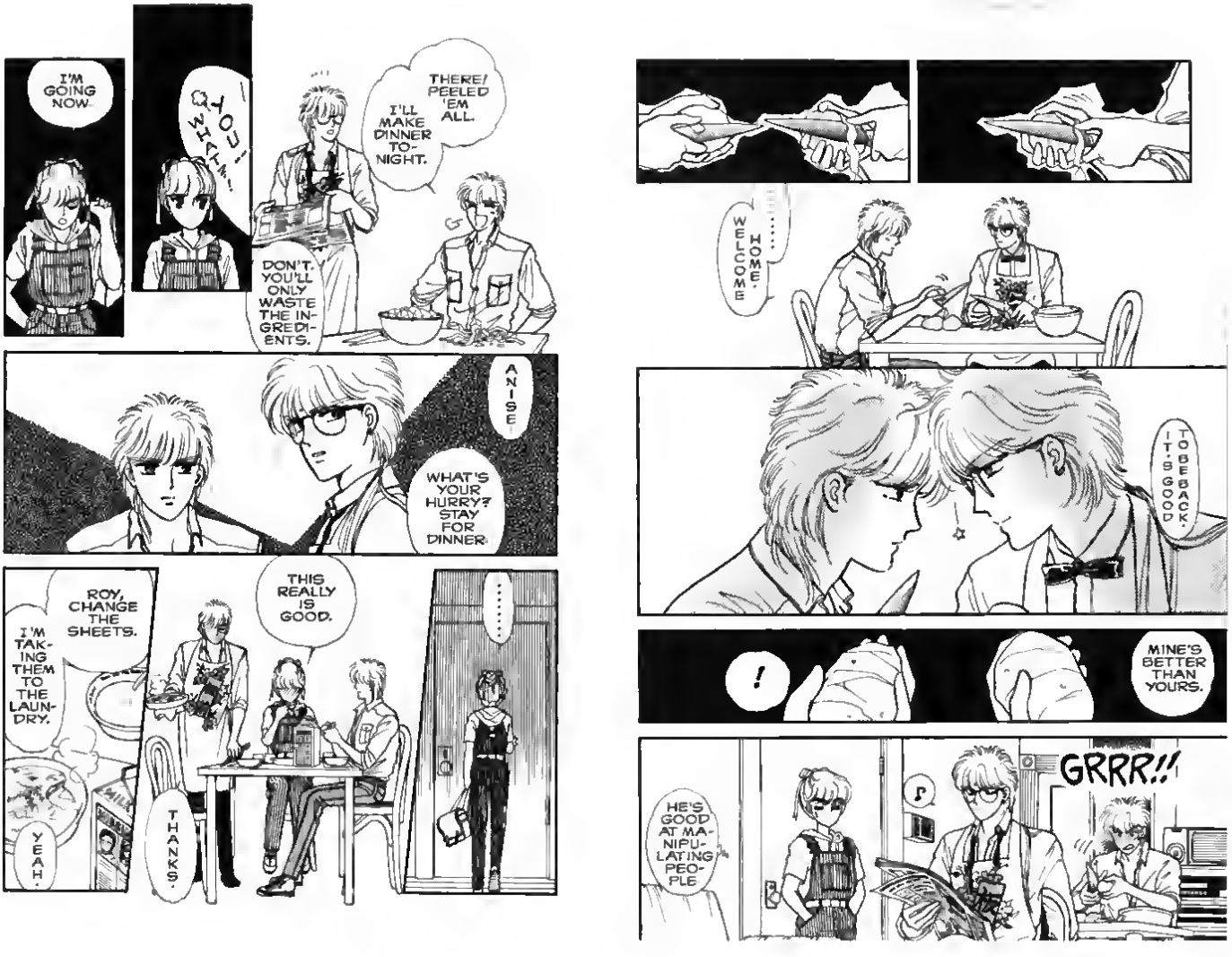
HEY, ANISE.
GLAD TO SEE YOU MADE IT.
WOW!
IS THIS A PONY-TAIL EXTEN-SION?
YES. IT'S GOOD, DON'T YOU THINK?
IT'S GREAT!
ARE YOU GOING TO A PARTY?
I T S O C O O L !
TO A GALLERY OPENING IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD.

S I V A
Real Name Jake Rang
Birth date February 4th
17 years old
Birthplace Brooklyn, N.Y.
Height & Weight 6'2", 143 lbs.
Hair & Eye Color Dirty blonde gray eyes
Home. A two-bedroom apartment in Manhattan.
Favorites
Movie Never Ending Story
Actor Bill Murray
Food Vegetarian pizza
Hobby Flea market shopping
Pets A cat named Elly
THOSE GIRLS GOT EXCITED ABOUT THE ARTICLES ON SIVA.
TO CIPHER AND SIVA..
..AM I JUST ONE OF THOSE FANS?

SLAM
HE WON'T BE BACK TILL MORNING, AT THE EARLIEST.
hmph!
I'LL STICK WITH JAMES BOND.
YOU GO BE TARZAN OF THE URBAN JUNGLE.
WHY WOULD I WANT TO GO?
I'D RATHER GO TO THE MOUNTAINS, OR THE BEACH, OR—
I HATE ALL THAT FALSE POLITENESS AND THICK MAKE-UP!
WHAT?!
DON'T BOTHER.
IF I WANTED TO EAT, I'D MAKE IT MYSELF.
I DON'T NEED IT.
WANT ME TO MAKE SOME?
DID YOU EAT DINNER?
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A KID.
I DON'T LIKE PARTYING ALL OVER TOWN LIKE YOU DO.
AND WE'VE GOT A SHOOT TOMORROW MORNING!
SLAM
I GUESS I CAME AT A BAD TIME.
NO, NOT AT ALL.
CIPHER'S STAYING HOME, SO YOU CAN KEEP HIM COMPANY.
SNORE
AND ON THE RARE OCCASION I GO OUT, YOU SAY I'M "PARTYING ALL OVER TOWN."
FROM MORNINGS TO NIGHT I COOK, I CLEAN, I DO LAUNDRY, AND I TAKE CARE OF ELLY.
HEY, C'MON, YOU TWO. KNOCK IT OFF.
MAYBE CIPHER WANTS TO GO THE PARTY, TOO, RIGHT?

YES.
HUH?!
BACK SO SOON?
SLAM.
THAT'S ALL HE'S GOING TO SAY?
mm
HE COULD AT LEAST TRY TO BE POLITE.
rattle
rattle
THUD
WHAT'S UP, MR. BOND?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO COME BACK THE SAME DAY YOU LEFT.

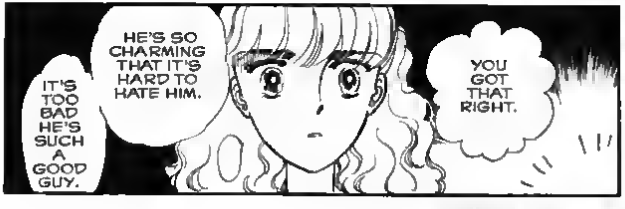

HE DIDN'T WANT TO BE LEFT HOME ALONE
UH..
MAYBE HE WANTED SIVA TO STAY HOME WITH HIM.
I'M GONNA HEAD HOME.
SEE YA.
OH... OKAY.
CLICK
describes the Pits of rock'n'roll?
We can't say guarantee!
RR RRING


I'M GOING NOW.
YOU WHAT?!
THERE! PEELED 'EM ALL.
I'LL MAKE DINNER TONIGHT.
DON'T. YOU'LL ONLY WASTE THE INGREDIENTS.
ANISE
WHAT'S YOUR HURRY? STAY FOR DINNER.
ROY, CHANGE THE SHEETS.
I'M TAKING THEM TO THE LAUNDRY.
YEAH.
THIS REALLY IS GOOD.
THANKS.
.....
WELCOME HOME.
.....
IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK.
!
MINE'S BETTER THAN YOURS.
HE'S GOOD AT MANIPULATING PEOPLE
GRRR!!

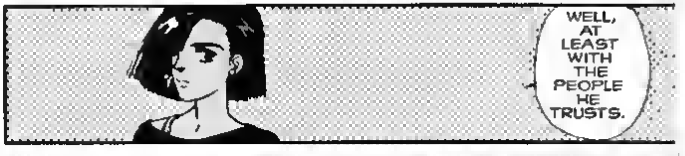
IT'S STILL WARM FROM CIPHER'S HANDS.
CAN YOU?
AFTER THEY'VE WORKED SO LONG, YOU CAN'T JUST TOSS THEM BECAUSE THEY'RE NO LONGER USEFUL.
SORT OF LIKE PEOPLE.
THERE IS A HISTORY IN EVERY SCRATCH AND DENT.
BUT OLD THINGS AREN'T JUST THINGS."
SIVA KEEPS TELLING ME TO PITCH IT.

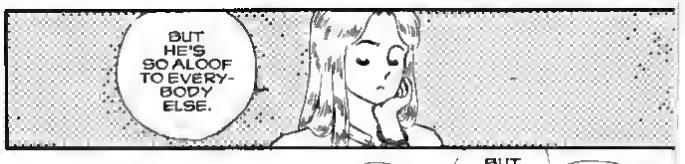
I'D NEVER DREAM OF GETTING RID OF IT.
I ALWAYS KEEP IT UNDER MY PILLOW.
WHY KEEP IT AROUND? YOU HAVE A NEW ONE.
IT'S PRETTY OLD.
I GOT IT FROM GRANDMOTHER. IT WAS HER FAVORITE
THAT WAS ALREADY BROKEN.
SIVA IS SO MATURE.
REASON
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
HUH?
CLUNK
A CLOCK?
IT'S STOPPED. DID I BREAK IT?
OH.

IT'S LIKE A DRUG.
IT'S HEAVEN WHEN YOU GO OUT WITH HIM, BUT IT'S HELL WHEN IT'S OVER.
AND YOU KEEP CHASING HIM, JUST TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO HIM.
HE DOESN'T CARE AT ALL ABOUT THE OTHERS.
THAT'S BECAUSE HE ONLY VALUES THE ONE HE'S CLOSEST TO.


IT'S TOO BAD HE'S SUCH A GOOD GUY.
HE'S SO CHARMING THAT IT'S HARD TO HATE HIM.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

AND SERIOUS ABOUT OBLIGATIONS.
HE'S MORE PASSIONATE THAN I THOUGHT.

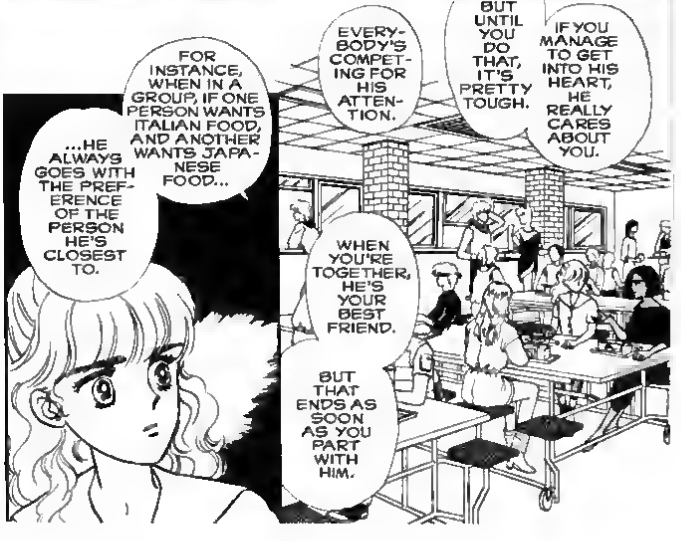

WELL, AT LEAST WITH THE PEOPLE HE TRUSTS.


BUT HE'S SO ALOOF TO EVERY-BODY ELSE.

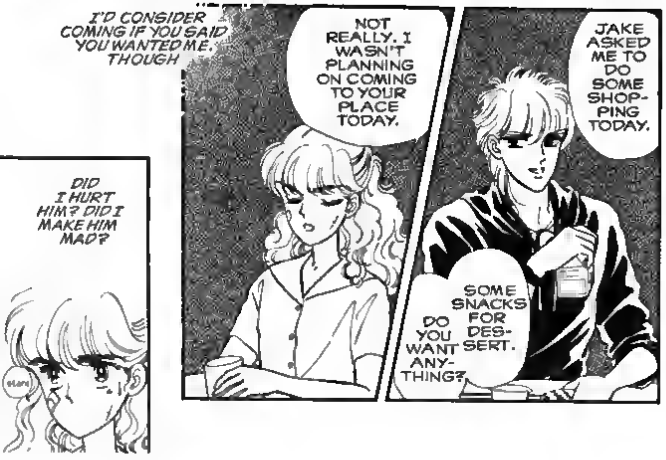
SIGH

BUT I STILL FEEL LIKE AN OUT-SIDER.

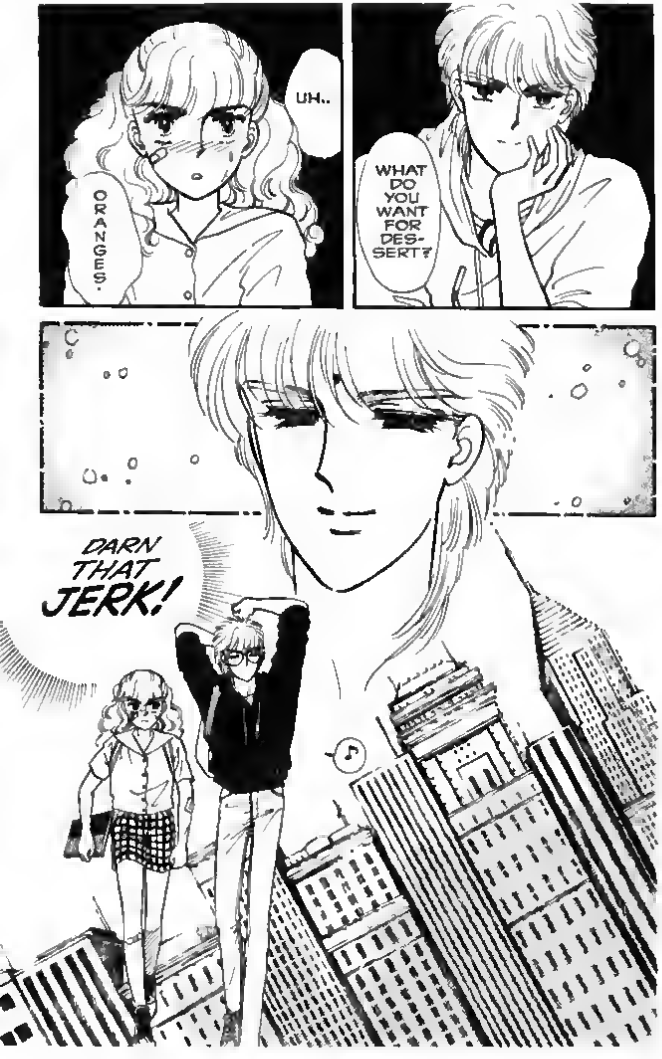
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SIGH ABOUT?
RECENTLY YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING SIVA ALL TO YOURSELF.


...HE ALWAYS GOES WITH THE PREF-ERENCE OF THE PERSON HE'S CLOSEST TO.
FOR INSTANCE, WHEN IN A GROUP, IF ONE PERSON WANTS ITALIAN FOOD, AND ANOTHER WANTS JAPA-NESE FOOD...
EVERY-BODY'S COMPET-ING FOR HIS ATTEN-TION.
BUT UNTIL YOU DO THAT, IT'S PRETTY TOUGH.
IF YOU MANAGE TO GET INTO HIS HEART, HE REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU.
WHEN YOU'RE TOGETHER, HE'S YOUR BEST FRIEND.
BUT THAT ENDS AS SOON AS YOU PART WITH HIM.

BEAT UP
hmph!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WHILE I WAS GONE?
DID YOU TRY TO STOP ANOTHER FIGHT?


I'D CONSIDER COMING IF YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME, THOUGH
NOT REALLY. I WASN'T PLANNING ON COMING TO YOUR PLACE TODAY.
JAKE ASKED ME TO DO SOME SHOPPING TODAY.
DO YOU WANT ANYTHING?
SOME SNACKS FOR DESSERT.
DID I HURT HIM? DID I MAKE HIM MAD?
slump

ANISE!
ah...
CRA SH
BE CAREFUL, ANISE. A COUPLE OF JEALOUS SIVA ADDICTS ARE EYEBALLING YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE JEALOUS ABOUT.
THIS IS A DRAG. IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO SUFFER OVER JUNK LIKE THIS.
FOR THE PAST MONTH SINCE I MET THOSE TWO, THEY'RE ALL I THINK ABOUT.
OOPS.
SORRY.
ANISE!
DON'T! STOP!
ANISE!

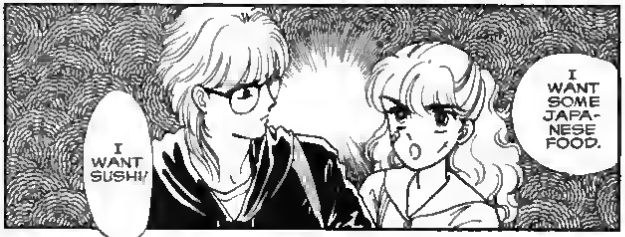

UH..
ORANGES.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR DES-SERT?
DARN THAT JERK!

OKAY.
OH,
THEN I GUESS I'LL INVITE SOME-BODY ELSE.
GLARE
WHAT?!
AH...
ANISE, YOU REALLY WANT TO COME.
YOU? DON'T

MADONNA
in LUCKY STAR

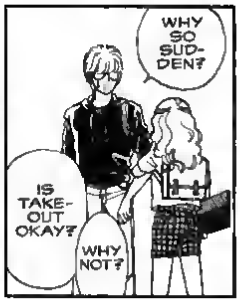
SushiBar MIYAGI
IRASSHAI!
SOME AKAGAI, SOME EBI, AND AVOCADO, PLEASE.
HAI!

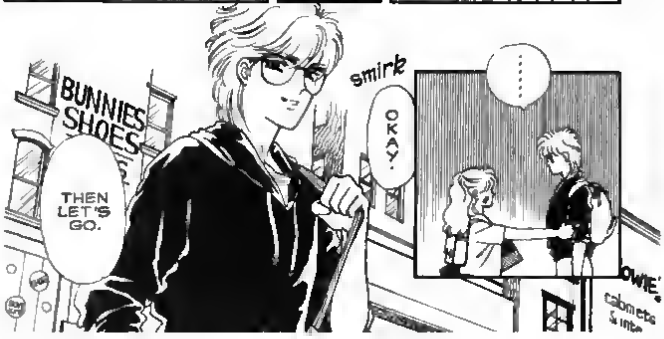
GR
AD
IF I HAVE TO BE IN THIS SITUATION, I MAY AS WELL USE IT. LET'S SEE IF HE REALLY CARES.


I WANT SUSHI!
I WANT SOME JAPANESE FOOD.

NO!
I WANT TO GO TO A PROPER SUSHI BAR!
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A SUSHI BAR.

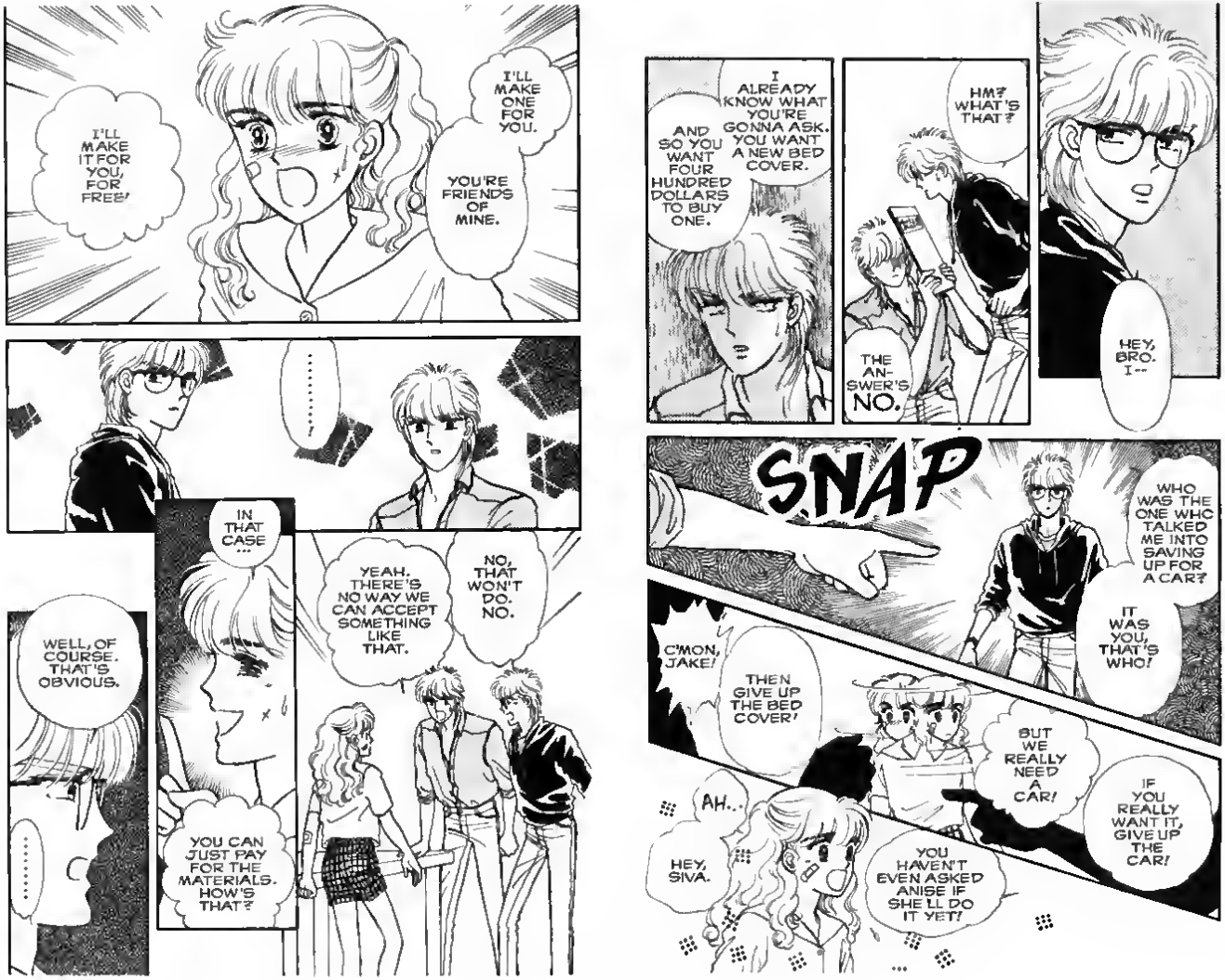
UH...
SIVA IS STILL WAITING AT HOME.


WHY SO SUDDEN?
IS TAKE-OUT OKAY?
WHY NOT?

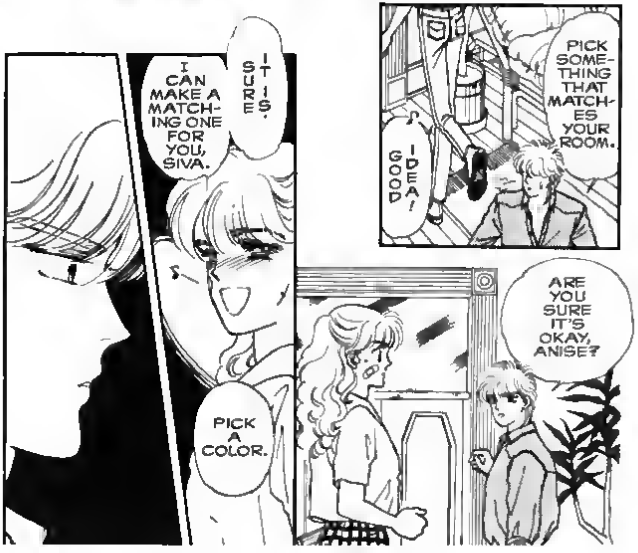

BUNNIES SHOES
THEN LET'S GO.
smirk
OKAY.
.....
POWIE!

WE WENT TO EAT AT A SUSHI BAR.
YEAH, I GUESS.
YOU GUYS ARE BACK LATE.
GOOD EVENING!
UH...
THIS IS FROM ANISE.
SHE GOT THIS TAKEOUT ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
WELL...
YOU'RE NOT EATING MUCH.
ANISE?
I SOLD A QUILT TODAY, SO I'M FEELING RICH. I'LL TREAT.
WHAT, IS THAT FOR JAKE?
UH...
ONE ORDER OF TAKE-OUT PLEASE!
HA!!
.....
NO!
I WANT SIVA TO EAT IT!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
HE'LL FIND SOMETHING TO EAT HIMSELF.

HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT!
YOU'RE A REGULAR EXPERT.
PRIDE...
MINE ARE BETTER.
LA LA LA!
WE'LL BE DONE SOON, ANISE.
SCRAPE SCRAPE
.....
TAPESTRIES, BED COVERS, CUSHION COVERS, THINGS LIKE THAT.
REALLY?!
A GOOD BED COVER DESIGN CAN SELL FOR ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS.
FOUR HUNDRED BUCKS, HUH?
WELL, I WOULDN'T SAY PRO.
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THEM?
BUT THAT'S WHY YOU HAD CASH TODAY, ISN'T IT?
I THOUGHT QUILTING WAS JUST A HOBBY.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE A PRO.
YEAH.
IS THIS A COLORED PENCIL SET?
WOW, ANISE!
YEAH
DON'T THANK ME!
NO! NO!
TH- THANK!
JUST DON'T, OKAY?!
WHY NOT?
ALL THE POINTS ARE BROKEN.
REALLY?
bakot
I USE IT TO DRAW PATTERNS FOR MY QUILTS.
AND FOR DESIGN CLASS SOMETIMES
SHINE
SCRAPE SCRAPE
LET ME SHARPEN THEM FOR YOU.
NO.
REALLY?
OKAY, IF THAT'S TOO


I'LL MAKE IT FOR YOU, FOR FREE!
I'LL MAKE ONE FOR YOU.
YOU'RE FRIENDS OF MINE.
.....
IN THAT CASE ...
YEAH. THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN ACCEPT SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
NO, THAT WON'T DO. NO.
YOU CAN JUST PAY FOR THE MATERIALS. HOW'S THAT?
WELL, OF COURSE. THAT'S OBVIOUS.
.....
I ALREADY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA ASK. YOU WANT A NEW BED COVER.
AND SO YOU WANT FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS TO BUY ONE.
HM? WHAT'S THAT?
THE ANSWER'S NO.
HEY, BRO. I--
SNAP
WHO WAS THE ONE WHO TALKED ME INTO SAVING UP FOR A CAR?
IT WAS YOU, THAT'S WHO!
C'MON, JAKE!
THEN GIVE UP THE BED COVER!
BUT WE REALLY NEED A CAR!
IF YOU REALLY WANT IT, GIVE UP THE CAR!
AH...
HEY, SIVA.
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED ANISE IF SHE'LL DO IT YET!
...

GYAH!
HEY, CIPHER
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU, ANISE!
I CAN SEE YOU'RE GRATEFUL.
ANYWAY, LET'S START BY CHOOSING THE COLOR.
OKAY.


I CAN MAKE A MATCHING ONE FOR YOU, SIVA.
SURE IT IS!
PICK A COLOR.
PICK SOMETHING THAT MATCHES YOUR ROOM.
GOOD IDEA!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY, ANISE?

OH...
OF COURSE! LEAVE IT TO ME!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND A SIMPLE PATTERN.
ARE YOU REALLY SERIOUS?
YOU'D WORK FOR FREE?
ANISE!
HUG
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

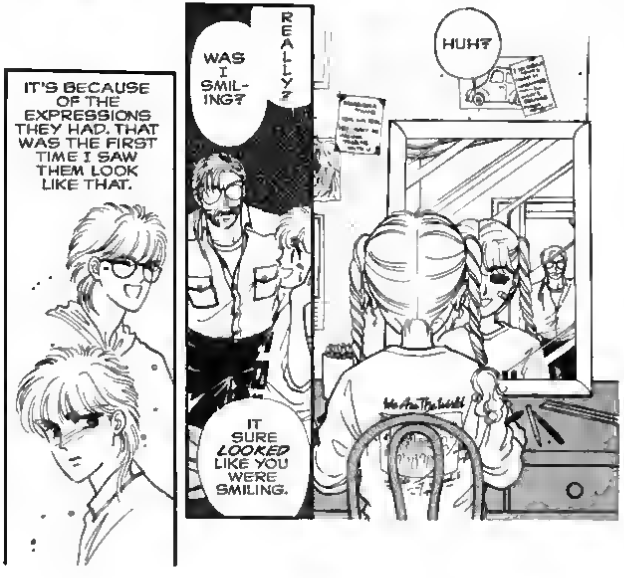
BLUSH
SIVA WANTS BLUE
CIPHER WANTS A SUBDUED EARTH TONE.

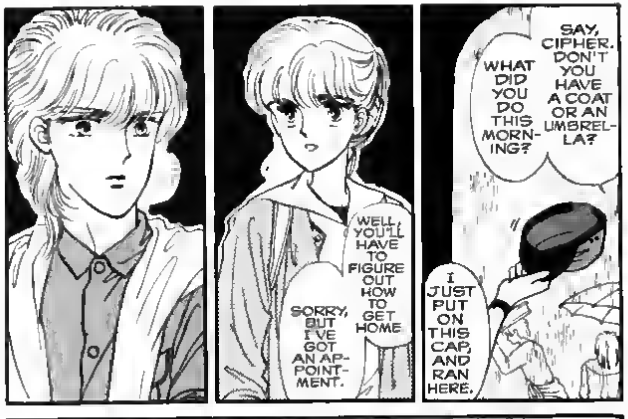
HA... HA HA... SORRY. I GUESS YOU DON'T NEED ONE.
I SHOULD JUST KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT.
AH?
NO.
NO, IT'S NOT THAT.
Thanks.

I JUST FEEL SO GOOD DOING IT.
I DON'T CARE IF I'M WORKING FOR FREE.
ARIEL
zzzz

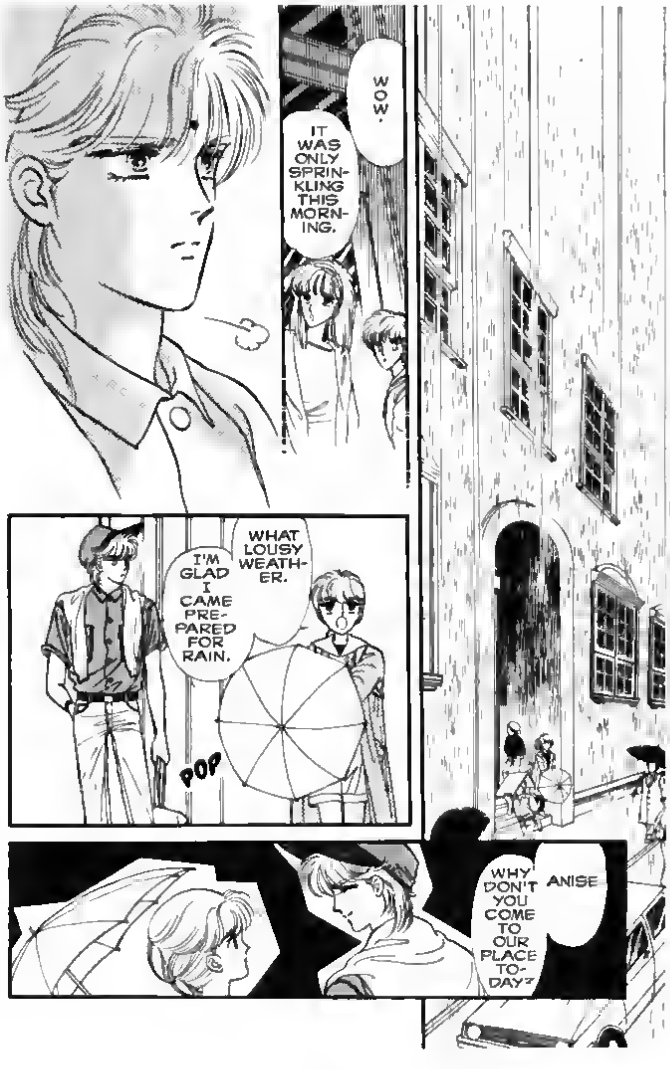
HOW DID I END UP DOING THIS?
I'VE GOT A PILE OF OTHER THINGS I SHOULD BE DOING.
HMM.. WORKING FOR FREE.

YOU SURE LOOK HAPPY, ANISE.

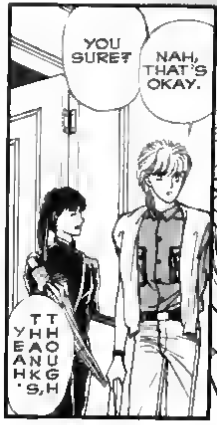

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE EXPRESSIONS THEY HAD. THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW THEM LOOK LIKE THAT.
REALLY?
WAS I SMILING?
IT SURE LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE SMILING.
HUH?


SAY, CIPHER. DON'T YOU HAVE A COAT OR AN UMBRELLA?
WHAT DID YOU DO THIS MORNING?
I JUST PUT ON THIS CAP AND RAN HERE.
WELL YOU'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET HOME
SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT.

BYE...
OH.
BYYEE.
SAY HI TO SIVA.
glance
HEY, SIVA. DIDN'T YOU BRING AN UMBRELLA?
UH...
WANT TO SHARE MINE?

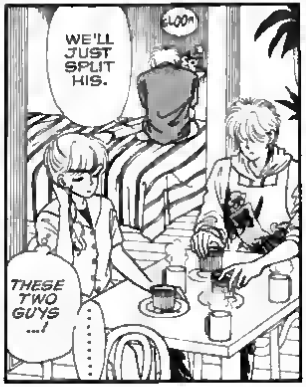

WOW.
IT WAS ONLY SPRINKLING THIS MORNING.
WHAT LOUSY WEATHER.
I'M GLAD I CAME PREPARED FOR RAIN.
POP
ANISE
WHY DON'T YOU COME TO OUR PLACE TODAY?

EVEN NOW, YOU STILL WON'T COME OUT AND SAY, "I WANT YOU TO COME OVER."



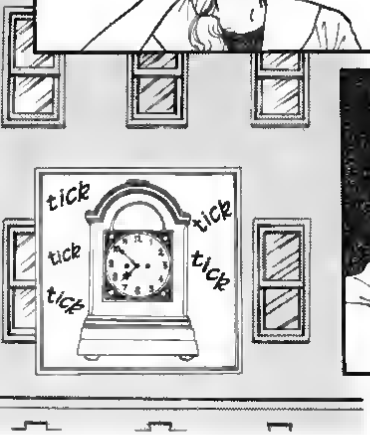
WELL...
I'M A DAY LATE IN PUTTING YOUR QUILTS TOGETHER.
I WANTED TO SHOW IT TO YOU BEFORE YOU LEFT.
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO L.A. FOR THE SUMMER TO FILM. SO I'M HURRYING.
WHAT?!
BUSY?
HEY.
SHE TOOK TIME OUT OF HER BUSY SCHEDULE TO DROP BY.
THAT'S IT? THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO BUSY?
HOW TERRIBLY HONEST.
HEY...
...SOMETHING SMELLS GREAT! WHAT IS IT?
SIGH.
BUT I WANT IT SOON!
WELL, I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF.
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I DO WANT TO COME TO YOUR PLACE.
WOO HOO!
HEY.
WELCOME HOME.
男前

THAT WASN'T NICE, SIVA.
WHAT?


WE'LL JUST SPLIT HIS.
LOOM
THESE TWO GUYS ...!

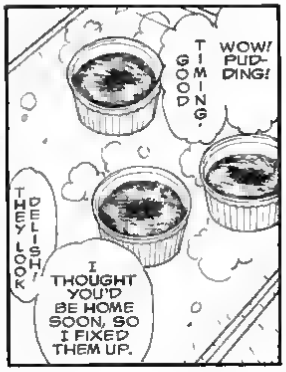
GO OVER THERE.
CIN-DER-ELLA.
bully mode

YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR BROTHER AND YOU KNOW IT.
LEAVE HIS PUDDING ALONE


tick
tick
tick
tick
tick
tick

UH... WELL...

THANKS!
YOU EVEN MADE ONE FOR ME.


WOW! PUD-DING!
GOOD TIMING.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HOME SOON, SO I FIXED THEM UP.
THEY LOOK DELISH!

YO, DUDE! WHAT'S WITH THE BEAR HUG?
BUT, JAKE ...
STOP. YOU'RE WEIRDIN' ME OUT.

IT'S ... NO BIG DEAL.

?!
HUG

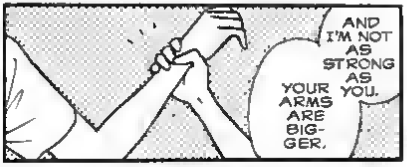
NO. FROM WAY BEFORE THAT.
SINCE WHEN?
SINCE SHE NOTICED THE SCAR?
I'M THINK-ING...
...THAT SHE REALLY WON THE BET.
CON-SIDER-ING SHE LOST THE BET...
...ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT SHE WASN'T DEPRESSED OR UPSET WHEN SHE LOST?
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID WHEN WE HAD THE BET?
"EVEN THE PEOPLE YOU CALL FRIENDS ONLY NOTICE SO MUCH."
"SEE IF YOU CAN TELL US APART."
"IF YOU THINK I'M WRONG, LET'S PROVE IT."
HER FAITH WAS RIDING ON THAT BET.

ROY.
ANISE WENT HOME
ROY?
UUUM....
THE PILLOW IS FOR PUTTING YOUR HEAD ON, NOT FOR HUGGING.
.....
HEY! STOP!
BUT I LIKE TO HUG.
WHAT?
ANISE.
SHE CAN TELL US APART.
DID YOU NOTICE?

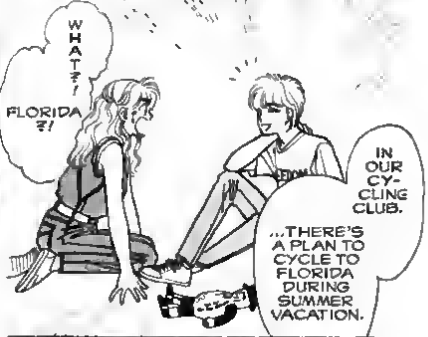
MORON.
WE HAD THE SAME MARK ON OUR FOREHEADS.
DUMMY! THERE'S GOT TO BE A MORE CONCRETE REASON.
IT'S 'CAUSE SHE WANTS TO BE FRIENDS.
WELL...
MAYBE SHE'S NOT THINKING ABOUT HER OWN BENEFIT.
WHAT VALUE COULD IT BE TO HER TO LOSE?
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WELL, THAT WOULD BE CONVENIENT FOR US, IF IT WERE TRUE.
.....
?
MAYBE SHE'S JUST CLOSING HER EYES, FOR OUR SAKE.
SHE'S THE KIND OF GIRL WHO WORKS FOR FREE.
DON'T YOU SEE?
IF WE HAD LOST, WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO TELL HER EVERYTHING.
IF SHE COULD TELL US APART BACK THEN...
...THAT MEANS SHE LOST ON PURPOSE!
GET OUTTA HERE.
JAKE!
BUT THAT REALLY HELPED US OUT, DIDN'T IT?
Budweiser
I THINK SHE HAS SOME REASON FOR JUST TRYING TO STAY CLOSE TO US.
THERE'S NO TELLING.
BUT I STILL DON'T GET IT!
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO HER TO LOSE?
Budweiser

BUZZ OFF. I'M BUSY.
LEAVE ME ALONE. I'M WORKING.
OH, C'MON! LET'S PLAY A GAME.
PIN
CH
DARN YOU!
COME BACK HERE, MARTIN!
GOTCHA!
OW! HEY, NO TICKLING, YOU COWARD!
HA HA HA HA HA
WH-!
WHAT?!
WHO-EVER GETS TO THE PEANUT GUY FIRST WINS!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SO STUPID.
WE SHOULD BE CAREFUL UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT SHE'S UP TO.
NOW YOU'RE TALKING LIKE THAT AGAIN!
SO LET'S CLOSE OUR EYES FOR HER.
LET'S KEEP ACTING LIKE WE DID BEFORE.
AND I THOUGHT YOU ACTUALLY LIKED ANISE!
ANISE,
HEY, ANISE!

FREEDOM


AND I'M NOT AS STRONG AS YOU.
YOUR ARMS ARE BIG-GER.

I'VE GOT THE STRONG-EST GRIP ...
...IN GYM CLASS.
FREEDOM


WHAT?! FLORIDA?!
IN OUR CY-CLING CLUB.
...THERE'S A PLAN TO CYCLE TO FLORIDA DURING SUMMER VACATION.

JESSICA!
I'M HOME.

HEY, ANISE.
YOU WERE HOLDING BACK.

YEAH! I WIN!
GOT IT!
AH... DARN.
THIS IS STU-PID.

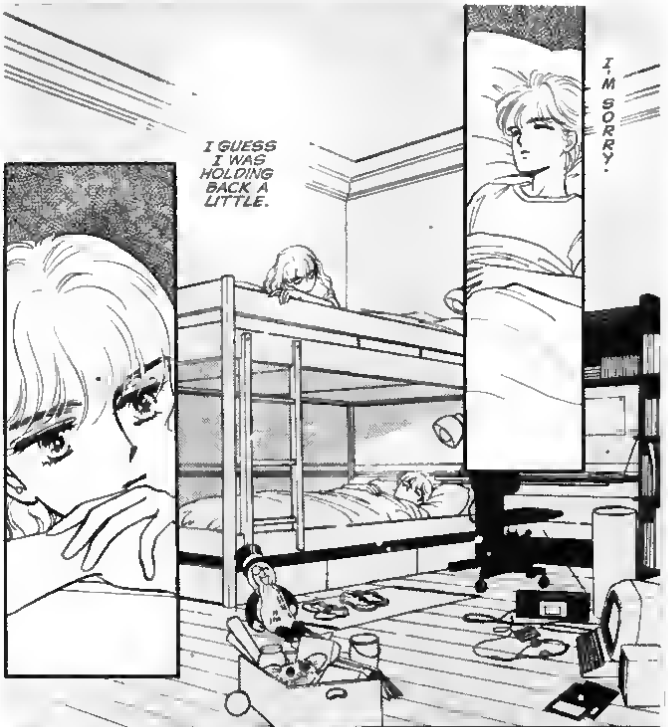
OH, PLEASE! WHAT 'RE YOU SAY-ING?
YOU'RE WAY TALLER THAN ME.

I GOT BAD FEET.
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD WIN.

THE SAME DREAM I ALWAYS HAVE.
NO, I JUST HAD A BAD DREAM.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. I HAVE RECURRING DREAMS, TOO.

I USED TO DREAM THAT MY MOTHER GOT MUR-DERED.

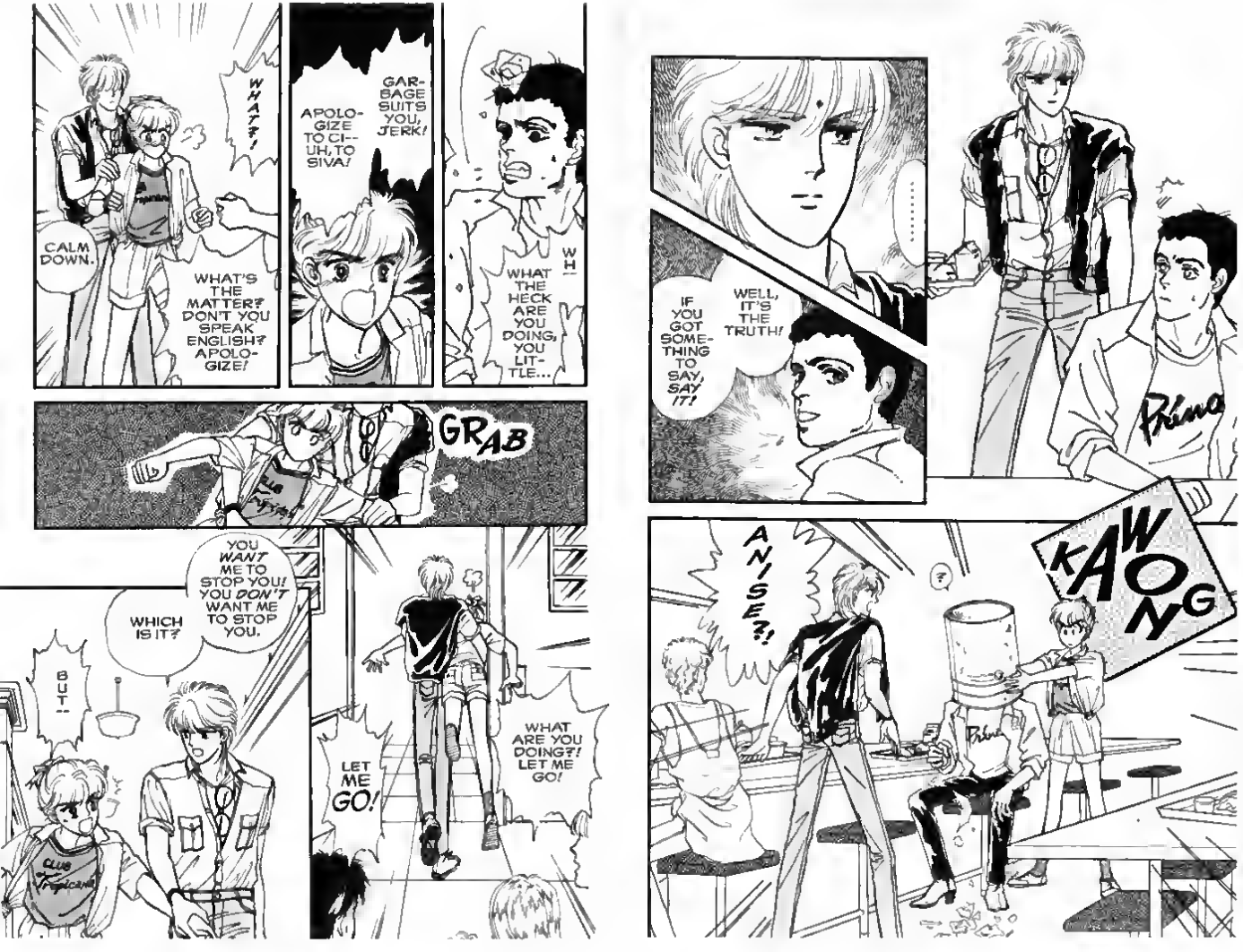
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK GLUM.
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN AT YOUR MOTHER'S HOUSE?


I'M SORRY.
I GUESS I WAS HOLDING BACK A LITTLE.

AND THE LORD SET A MARK UPON CAIN, LEST ANY FINDING HIM SHOULD KILL HIM.
"MY PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR. EVERYONE THAT FINDS ME SHALL SLAY ME."
CAIN KILLED HIS BROTHER ABEL.

PUSHY, AREN'T YOU? YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO TALK TO A GIRL.
AND YOU'RE WEARING THE SAME CLOTHES EVERY TIME I SEE YOU.
I'm a Prince fan.
snicker snicker
Prince
COME OVER HERE, RUTH.
HEY.
SIVA?
YOU THINK HE'S GOOD?
stare
YOU'D BE BETTER OFF PICKING OLD CLOTHES FROM THE TRASH.
AND THEY'RE OLD RAGS!
WA HA HA HA
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
SIVA'S CLOTHES ARE ON SALE AT YOUR CHARITY BAZAAR.

CLUB
THAT'S TRUE. YOU WON'T LAST LONG IN THIS TOWN WORRYING ABOUT THE LITTLE STUFF.
A NEW YORKER'S GOT TO BE TOUGH!
BUT YOU CAN'T KEEP WORRYING ABOUT LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE MY PARENTS ARE DIVORCED.
THERE YOU GO
GOTTA THINK POSITIVE!
BEING GLOOMY DOESN'T SUIT ME ANYWAY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHERE IS SIVA? IS HE LATE?
LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING HAPPY.
YOU WERE JUST TALKING TRASH ABOUT HIM.
WHO SAYS SIVA IS A HAPPY TOPIC?
I'M JUST A LITTLE JEALOUS
'CAUSE SIVA DOESN'T PAY ATTENTION TO ME
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
YOU CAN BE SO CLUELESS.


WHAT?!
CALM DOWN.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? APOLOGIZE!
APOLOGIZE TO CI--UH, TO SIVA!
GARBAGE SUITS YOU, JERK!
WH--
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING, YOU LITTLE...
GRAB
YOU WANT ME TO STOP YOU! YOU DON'T WANT ME TO STOP YOU.
WHICH IS IT?
BUT--
LET ME GO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! LET ME GO!
.....
IF YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, SAY IT!
WELL, IT'S THE TRUTH!
ANISE?!
?
KAWONG

YOUR PROBLEM IS, YOU ALWAYS CHARGE HEAD-FIRST.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO MANEUVER BEHIND THE SCENES.
I COULD NEVER DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
HUH?
ARE YOU HUN-GRY?

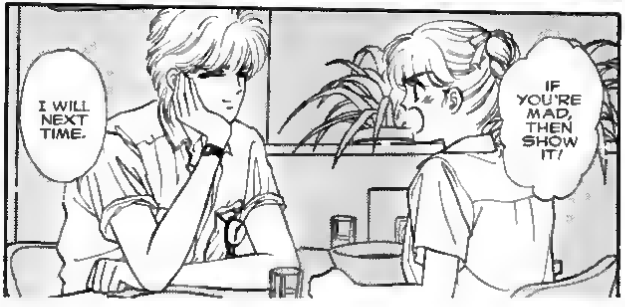
I'LL TREAT.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING BACK TO THE CAFETERIA. LET'S EAT OUT.

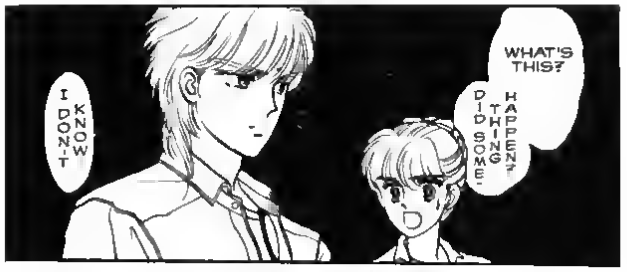
WHY WEREN'T YOU ANGRY?
MENU

THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
BUT....
PAKU
LUB
THIS IS DIFFERENT!
I WAS GONNA MAKE HIM APOLO--
...YOU'D EVEN SAY THAT!
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE...
SHOCK
WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT?
I WASN'T EVEN THAT ANGRY MY-SELF.
I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND LISTEN TO STUFF LIKE THAT.
THINK ABOUT HOW CIPHER WOULD FEEL!

DING DONG
HEY! CIPHER?!

YOU SEEM HAPPY SOMEHOW, CIPHER.
REALLY?
YOU'RE POSITIVELY BEAMING.
YOU SHOULD BE MAD.
I AM MAD.
SMILE

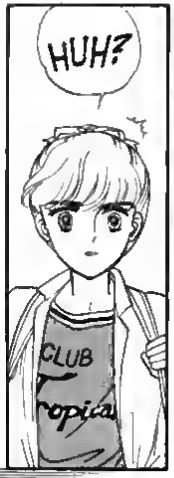

I WILL NEXT TIME.
IF YOU'RE MAD, THEN SHOW IT!


I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S THIS? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

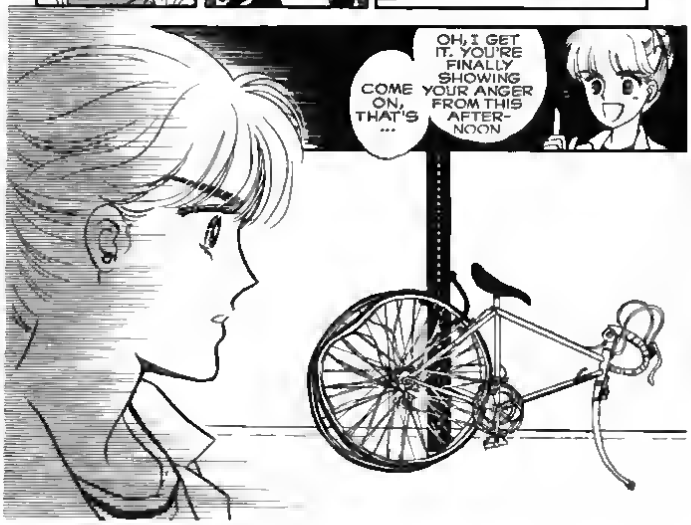
IT SEEMS HE'S DISLIKED ME FROM A LONG TIME AGO.
IT'S PROBABLY THE GUY FROM THIS AFTERNOON.

ANYWAY...
I'LL GO TALK TO THAT GUY.

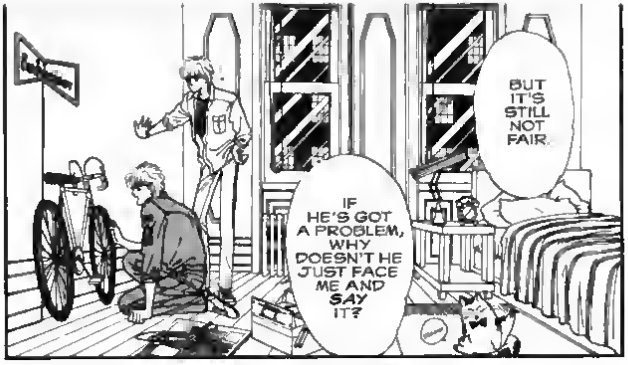
MAYBE IT'S JUST RANDOM VANDALISM.
BUT SOMEBODY MUST HAVE SEEN IT.
IF IT WAS SOMEONE FROM SCHOOL, THEN SOMEBODY MUST KNOW ABOUT IT.


HUH?
CLUB Tropica

HEY, CIPHER! YOU WEREN'T IN THE USUAL SPOT.
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU ALL OVER.
NO

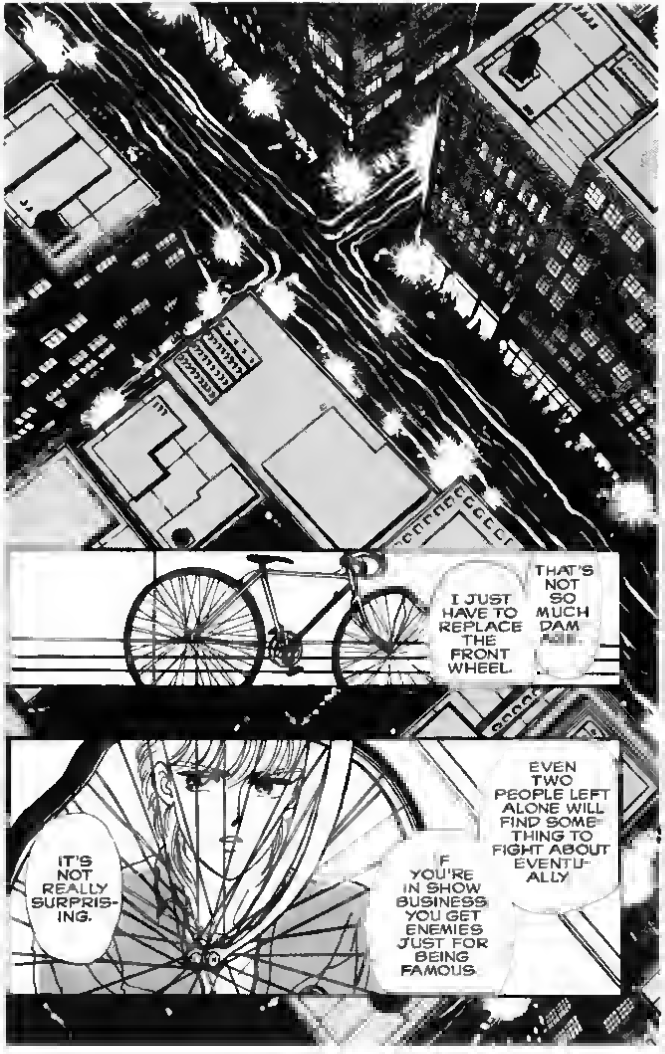

OH, I GET IT. YOU'RE FINALLY SHOWING YOUR ANGER FROM THIS AFTERNOON
COME ON, THAT'S ...

I'M GOING HOME.
SORRY, IT'S NOTHING.
.....
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID I SHOULD SHOW MY ANGER!
OR MAYBE HE REGRETS IT NOW.
MAYBE HE DID IT WITHOUT THINKING.
EVEN IF THE GUY ADMITS HE DID SOMETHING WRONG, YOU HAVE TO FORGIVE HIM.
WAIT!
NO AMOUNT OF APOLOGIZING OR FORGIVING WILL CHANGE THAT!
SOMEBODY DID IT--THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT.
BUT ANYWAY, I WANT TO KNOW WHO DID THIS.
<I-SEE!

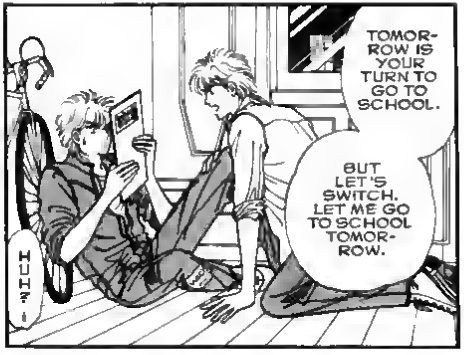

BUT IT'S STILL NOT FAIR.
IF HE'S GOT A PROBLEM, WHY DOESN'T HE JUST FACE ME AND SAY IT?

ARE YOU SAYING I'M NOT HONEST?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "REALLY?"
DO YOU REALLY THINK LIKE THAT, JAKE?

I DON'T GET IT. WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?
IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS GOING TO CRY...
HAVE YOU CONFIRMED THAT IT'S THE GARBAGE PAIL GUY?
SO WHO'S THE CULPRIT?
CLACK
NO.
ANISE ASORTA STOPPED ME.


I JUST HAVE TO REPLACE THE FRONT WHEEL.
THAT'S NOT SO MUCH DAMAGE.
IT'S NOT REALLY SURPRISING.
IF YOU'RE IN SHOW BUSINESS YOU GET ENEMIES JUST FOR BEING FAMOUS
EVEN TWO PEOPLE LEFT ALONE WILL FIND SOMETHING TO FIGHT ABOUT EVENTUALLY

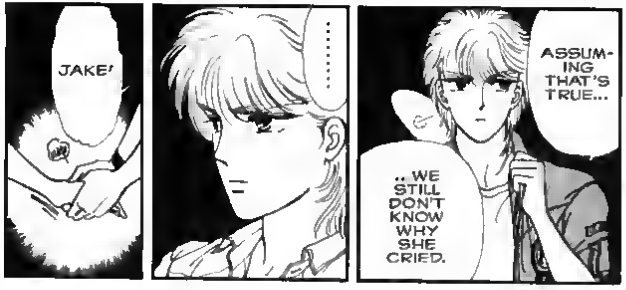
DARYL HALL
JOHN OATES
19
84
THIS IS FOR YOU.
CHARLIE DeCHANT


TOMORROW IS YOUR TURN TO GO TO SCHOOL.
BUT LET'S SWITCH. LET ME GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.
HUH?!

I CAN'T STOP WORRYING ABOUT THIS.
PLEASE! AFTER THAT, I'LL LET YOU GO TWO DAYS IN A ROW!

ALL RIGHT.
BUT I HAVE ONE CONDITION.

Flat out
THE CULPRIT WHO DAMAGED THE BIKE WAS ANISE NERSELF!
THERE IS ONLY ONE REASON FOR THAT
JUST WHEN YOU WERE ABOUT TO GO AFTER THE CULPRIT, ANISE GOT UPSET.
LET'S CONSIDER IT.
HERE IS WHAT I THINK.
HM?
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SAYING?!
MORON!
SHE'D NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
UH... WELL...


JAKE!
.....
ASSUMING THAT'S TRUE...
.. WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHY SHE CRIED.

CIPHER, IS THAT YOU? IT IS YOU, ISN'T IT?
BUT ISN'T TODAY SIVA'S TURN?
UH... YEAH, IT'S ME.
365
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ANISE? ARE YOU OKAY?
I SWITCHED WITH HIM.
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I'M FINE. OF COURSE.
DID I SAY SOMETHING THAT BOTHERED YOU?
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, YESTERDAY?
THAT IS WHAT I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU.
大将
WHAT KINDA WORKING CONDITION IS THIS?
HEY, COME ON. HURRY UP AND FINISH CLEANING, CINDERELLA.
WHAT THE...?
?
大将
365
HI!
HI!
大将

HEY, YOU!
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
UH...
?
WHAT HAP PENED?
ANISE?
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMO-TION?
murmur
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING ...
Flinch
murmur
!
A TOOTH-ACHE?
I HAVE A TOOTH-ACHE!
NO, RUTH! IT'S NOT THAT!
uh...
大将
NO, YOU DIDN'T.
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU. FORGET ABOUT IT.
HEY! WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME?
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I'M TRYING HARD TO FORGET IT, SO STOP MAKING ME REMEM-BER!
DON'T TALK TO ME!
BUNN
?!
HUH?!

LATER.
HOMEROOM IS STARTING
YEAH.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
FORGET IT.
UH
GUESS
THANKS
WHACK

IT'S BEEN HURTING ALL MORNING, BUT I CAN'T GET AN APPOINTMENT WITH MY DENTIST.
WHY.
I TOOK A PAIN-KILLER TO TRY AND FORGET ABOUT IT.
THAT'S
!
AND SIVA IS GETTING IN YOUR BUSINESS, IS HE?
AH!
WHAT?!
YEAH! YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
OH, GIMME A BREAK!
WHAT?!
THAT BITES ABOUT YOUR DENTIST, THOUGH. WHY DON'T YOU FIND ANOTHER?
BUT I'VE BEEN SEEING HIM SINCE I WAS THREE
THANKS, RUTH.
FOR WHAT?
TELL YOUR DENTIST TO BE CAREFUL WITH THAT TOOTH.
sigh.
.....

THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT.
HUFF
HUFF
TIRED?
THAT WAS A PRETTY HARD SPRINT.
LET'S SKIP SCHOOL!
YOU CAN'T GO TO CLASS WHEN YOU HAVE SUCH A BAD "TOOTH-ACHE," NOW CAN YOU?
AND YOUR GRADES ARE OKAY, RIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOUR GRADES OKAY?
WE BETTER RUN.
THERE'S OH A SECURITY GUARD AT THE EN-TRANCE.
AH!
O-OKAY~
THIS IS MORE IM-POR-TANT
LET'S GO!

AS LONG AS YOU DON'T IMITATE SOMEBODY, THERE'S NOTHING TO COMPARE YOU TO.
WHEN YOU GET TO THE TOP, NOBODY CAN DECIDED WHO'S NUMBER ONE OR NUMBER TWO.
YOU'RE LUCKY TO BE AN ACTOR
FLAP FLAP
DEPENDS ON TALENT, PERSONALITY ANC LUCK!
THINKING ABOUT IT, IT'S HARDER THAN RUNNING TRACK.
FLAP
EVERYBODY CAN BE NUMBER ONE.
WHEN I HURT MY LEG, THAT'S WHEN WE DECIDED WE'D BOTH BE ACTORS.
OF COURSE, IT'S REALLY HARD TO GET TO THAT LEVEL.
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOUR LEG?!

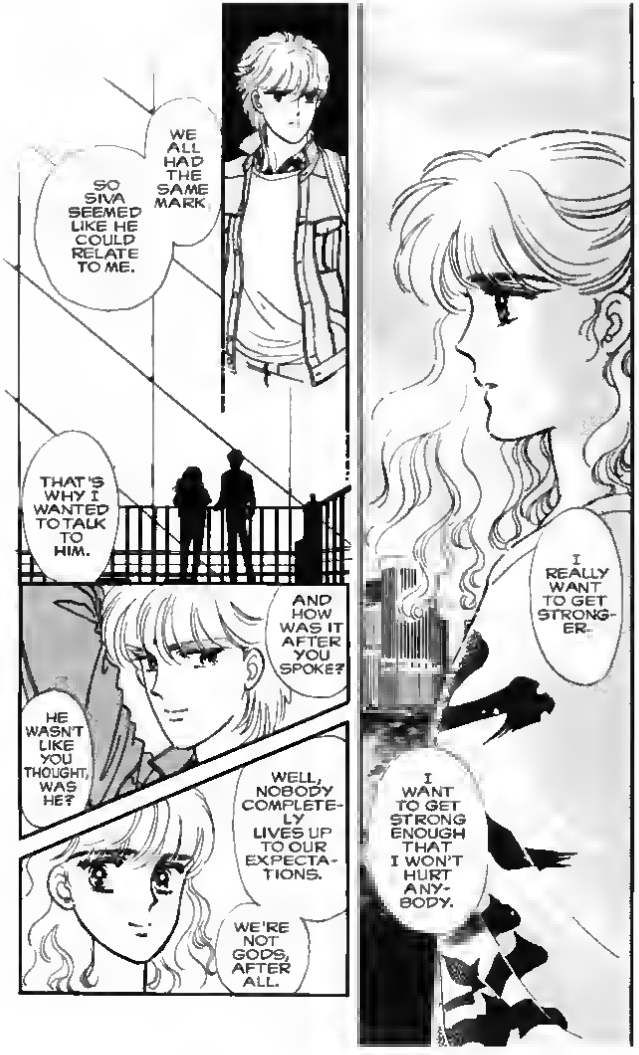
WHAT ABOUT ACTING?
CAN YOU MAKE IT TO NUMBER ONE THERE?
WE BOTH WERE
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
THAT WAS FAST!
WEREN'T YOU ON THE TRACK TEAM IN JUNIOR HIGH?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE NUMBER ONE.
I HEARD YOU SET A RECORD.
YOU HAD TALENT. WHY'D YOU QUIT?
BECAUSE I COULDN'T BE NUMBER ONE.
I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT THAT WAS IT.
MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF I SWITCHED TO LONG DISTANCE.

WELL, IT'S TRUE THEY USED TO FIGHT A LOT.
AND SINCE MOM WORKED OUTSIDE WHILE DAD WORKED AT HOME, THEY DIDN'T MEET OFTEN.
NAH, YOU'RE THINKING TOO MUCH. A LOT OF KIDS OF DIVORCED PARENTS THINK THAT.
BUT IT'S ALWAYS THE PARENTS THEMSELVES WHO CAUSE IT
I THINK I MAY HAVE BEEN THE REASON THEY GOT DIVORCED.
BUT THE REAL TRIGGER WAS...
BUT THAT'S WHY IT'S FUN!
NO.
THE RAIN CAUSES FLOODS AND HIGH CURRENTS. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS.
THE RACCOONS ARE GONNA COME OUT TO PLAY.
OF COURSE HE SAID NO.
I SAID, "NO!"
WHEN IT...
...STOPS RAINING, CAN I GO DOWN TO THE RIVER?

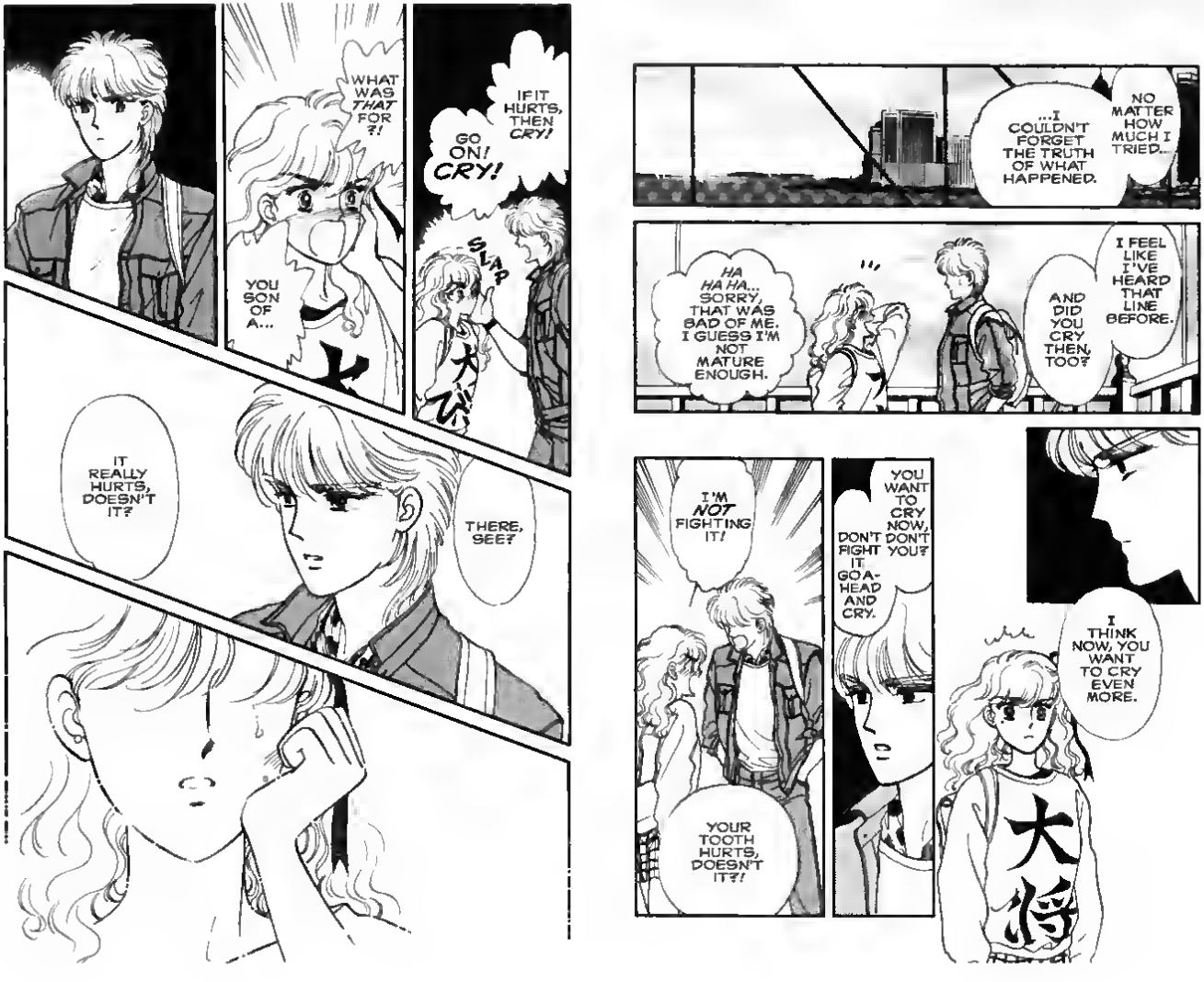
HE WAS IN AN ACCIDENT ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO.
ANYWAY, YOU'RE LUCKY. SPRAINS HEAL.
MY LITTLE BROTHER'S LEGS ARE REALLY MESSED UP.
HUH?
OH, WOW!
NOTHING. IT WAS JUST A SPRAIN.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS TWO DAYS BEFORE A BIG TRACK MEET.
NOW THERE'S A REAL PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP.
BLOOMINGD
YES.
NEITHER OF MY PARENTS REMARRIED.
THEY DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE EACH OTHER.
WHAT ABOUT YOU? IS YOUR FAMILY LIKE THAT?

THAT'S WHEN HE HAD THE ACCI-DENT.
DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF CAIN AND ABEL?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
DON'T LET IT BOTH-ER YOU.
IN RETRO-SPECT, THEY STARTED DOING THAT A LITTLE TOO FAST.
THEY STARTED GOING TO A PSYCHIATRIST AND DIVORCE MEDIA-TORS.
NEITHER MOM OR DAD GOT ANGRY AT ME.
INSTEAD, THEY GOT MAD AT EACH OTHER.

THOSE KIDS ARE STILL IN KINDER-GARTEN.
THAT'S EVEN WORSE!
BUT I WAS GONNA INVITE BILLY AND JOHN.
YOU'RE IN CHARGE, ANISE.
ALL RIGHT, THEN. GO WITH THEM.
WHAT HAS THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANY-THING?
ANISE, YOU DO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE A GIRL, RIGHT?
THEN IT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY, ROB I'LL GO WITH THEM.
I JUST TOLD THEM THAT THEY HAD TO STAY OUT OF THE RIVER.
IN REALITY, I WAS SICK OF PLAYING WITH YOUNGER KIDS.
MY BROTHER KEPT HIS PROMISE, AND DID WHAT I TOLD HIM.
BUT IT WAS AFTER THAT, ON THE WAY HOME
THEN I HOOKED UP WITH SOME FRIENDS AND WENT TO PLAY SOCCER.


WE ALL HAD THE SAME MARK
SO SIVA SEEMED LIKE HE COULD RELATE TO ME.
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM.
AND HOW WAS IT AFTER YOU SPOKE?
HE WASN'T LIKE YOU THOUGHT, WAS HE?
WELL, NOBODY COMPLETELY LIVES UP TO OUR EXPECTATIONS.
WE'RE NOT GODS, AFTER ALL.
I REALLY WANT TO GET STRONGER.
I WANT TO GET STRONG ENOUGH THAT I WON'T HURT ANYBODY.

GOD PUT A MARK ON CAIN'S FOREHEAD, AND DROVE HIM OUT OF EDEN.
CAIN KILLED ABEL.
IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO WATCH.
RIGHT AROUND THAT TIME, THE T.V. SERIES "EAST OF EDEN" CAME ON.
I COULDN'T WATCH THE SERIES TO THE END.
I FEEL LIKE THIS MOLE ON MY FOREHEAD IS SAYING, "IT'S YOUR FAULT."
IT MAKES ME THINK IT REALLY WAS MY FAULT, AFTER ALL.
IT EVEN BOTHERS ME THAT YOU SAY NOT TO LET IT BOTHER ME.
I PICKED MY OWN DESIRES INSTEAD OF WATCHING OUT FOR MY BROTHER.
I GUESS I WAS WEAK.


NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRIED...
...I COULDN'T FORGET THE TRUTH OF WHAT HAPPENED.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD THAT LINE BEFORE.
AND DID YOU CRY THEN, TOO?
HA HA HA... SORRY, THAT WAS BAD OF ME. I GUESS I'M NOT MATURE ENOUGH.
I THINK NOW, YOU WANT TO CRY EVEN MORE.
YOU WANT TO CRY NOW, DON'T YOU?
DON'T FIGHT IT GO AHEAD AND CRY.
I'M NOT FIGHTING IT!
YOUR TOOTH HURTS, DOESN'T IT?!
IF IT HURTS, THEN CRY!
GO ON! CRY!
SLAP
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
YOU SON OF A...
IT REALLY HURTS, DOESN'T IT?
THERE, SEE?

WELL...
...IT MEANS YOU CAN MAKE A QUILT FOR SOMEONE...
...OR YOU CAN ESCAPE WITH SOMEONE.
I FORGOT. I GOT US SOME FOOD
ha
YOUR NOSE IS RUNNING.
HERE.
sniff
THANKS
ARE YOU GONNA CRY OR EAT? MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
difficulty breathing
AH..
OKAY..

DON'T THINK SO MUCH.
JAKE SAYS THAT, IF THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE, IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THEY FIGHT.
I *HATE* THAT KIND OF THINKING!
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH.
IT'S OKAY IT ALSO MEANS YOU CAN DO THE OPPOSITE.
THE OPPOSITE?

WHEN I'M WITH THIS GUY... I DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND TO SMILE...
HEY!
MORNING, ANISE.

MORNING.
SIVA? IS THAT YOU?
365
YEP.
SUP?
UM...
DID CIPHER TELL YOU ABOUT YESTERDAY?
HM?
IT'S NOTHING. FORGET ABOUT IT.
OH... NOTHING.
.....
WHAT, LIKE LADIES UNDERWEAR?
NO! NOTHING LIKE THAT!
SHOPPING.
IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S DIFFICULT FOR A GUY TO BUY ALONE.
WHAAT?
I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY...
...BUT CAN YOU MEET ME AFTER SCHOOL?
THUD
CLOTHES FOR BARBIE.
WE BORROWED THEM FROM THE LITTLE GIRL NEXT DOOR
WELL THEN, WHERE'D YOU GET THE CLOTHES YOU PUT ON MY POP STAR DOLL?
NO.
I ALWAYS HADA SUSPICION ABOUT THAT.
DOES SIVA HAVE A BARBIE DOLL?

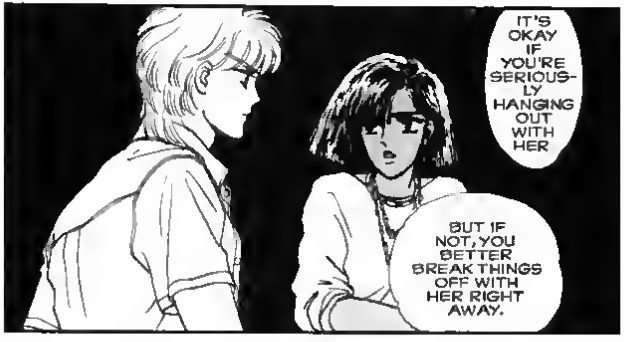
SURE! THAT WOULD BE GREAT.
THEN WE CAN HANG OUT WHILE I WORK ON YOUR QUILTS.
CAN I COME CRASH WITH YOU GUYS NEXT WEEKEND?
HEY, SIVA.
REALLY? THEN YOU CAN HELP ME MAKE DINNER.
YOU NEED A BREAK SOME-TIMES.
AND I WANT TO FEED CIPHER SOME OF MY SPECIAL COOKING.
N-NO!
I'D BE HAPPY TO HELP.
FINE. THEN IT'S SET-TLED.
UH...
...NAH, THAT'S OKAY.
WHAT. YOU DON'T LIKE MY COOK-ING?

BUT THAT WAS WEEKS AGO.
YOU WENT TO THAT MUCH TROU-BLE?
SURE
SO I WANT TO PAY HER BACK BY BUYING SOME NEW ONES.
SO HE DID HEAR ABOUT YESTERDAY.
I LOVE TOY STORES!
OKAY, WHAT-EVER I'LL MEET YOU AFTER SCHOOL.
I THOUGHT SO.
WE'LL BUY SOME FOR YOUR POP STAR DOLL, TOO, IF THERE'S ANYTHING GOOD.

pat pat
AH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.
ANI-SE?
DING DONG
OKAY, I'M COMING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HOMEROOM IS ABOUT TO START!
DID YOU MAKE UP WITH YOUR "TOOTHACHE?"
HEH HEH... UH, YEAH.
SEE YOU THIS AFTERNOON!
WAVE WAVE

YOU'RE NOT VERY GOOD AT EXPRESSING GRATITUDE, ARE YOU, SIVA?
AH...
THANKS...
AREN'T YOU?
AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO COOL.
BUT ACTUALLY, YOU'RE JUST AS EMOTIONAL AS CIPHER.
BUT... I...

SO YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT ANISE COULDN'T STAND GETTING HURT AGAIN.


IT'S OKAY IF YOU'RE SERIOUSLY HANGING OUT WITH HER
BUT IF NOT, YOU BETTER BREAK THINGS OFF WITH HER RIGHT AWAY.

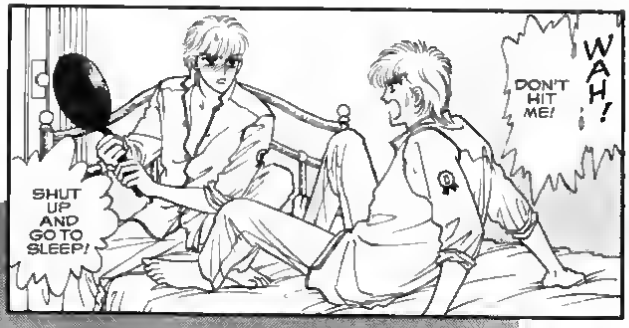
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS SHE?
THAT GIRL, RUTH ...

RUTH? WHAT'S UP?
BYE.
CHATTER

ANISE SHOULD BE HERE ANY MINUTE.
NO, JUST WAITING.
OH.
HI.
BY YOURSELF TODAY?
DING DONG
OH.
THEN I'VE GOT A LITTLE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT ANISE IS LIKE...
SHE WON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT HERSELF.
I GUESS SO.
WELL, YEAH.
YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT YOU'RE PRETTY POPULAR WITH GIRLS

WE'LL DISCUSS AND MAKE SURE OUR STORIES AGREE.
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO.
I THINK I KNOW WHO IT IS THAT'S PICKING ON HER.
YOU'RE NO GOOD AT DECISIVE ACTION, ARE YOU? I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
IS THAT NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?
...WHAT IS IT?
I'M JUST SO HAPPY!
BUT YOU WEREN'T EVEN THINKING OF THAT, WERE YOU?
IT'D BE SO EASY JUST TO BREAK THINGS OFF WITH ANISE.
JAKE!
GRAB

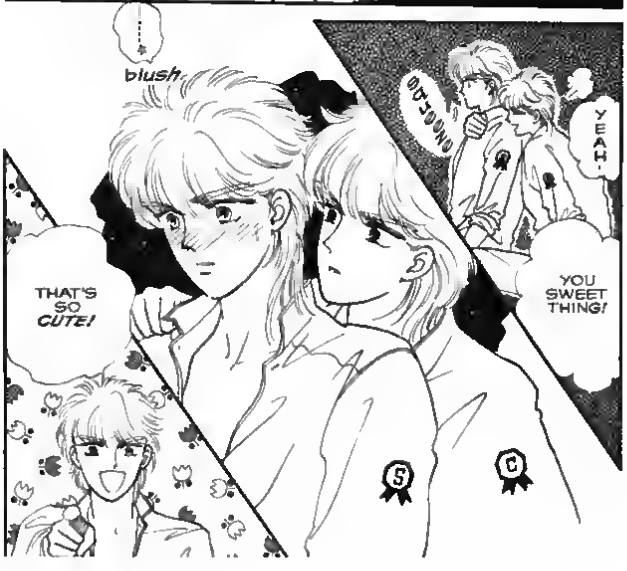
HMM.
FWAP
SHE'S A GOOD FRIEND OF ANISE.
WHEN WE WERE MAKING A FILM IN CLASS, SHE DID THE HAIR AND MAKE-UP.
LISTEN UP, JAKE. WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT ANISE?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO.
WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING, AND SOON.
YOU'RE RIGHT.


SHUT UP AND GO TO SLEEP!
DON'T HIT ME!
WAH!

I KNOW YOU TOO WELL.

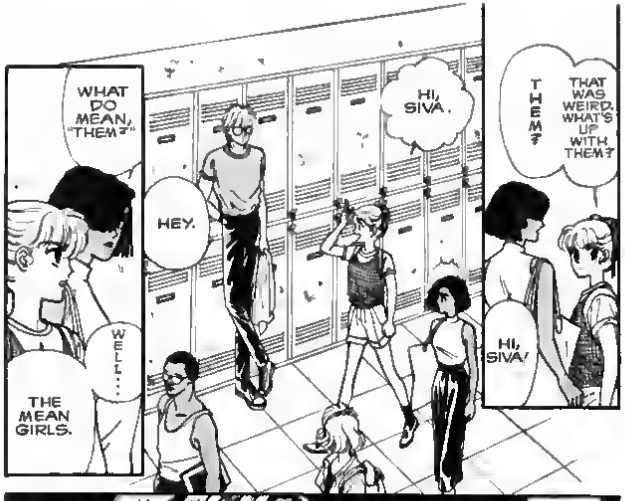
IT'S BE-CAUSE SHE KNOWS OUR SECRET.
THAT'S ALL IT IS!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SHY.
I KNOW WHY.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WOULDN'T BE SATISFIED IF WE DIDN'T DO THIS.

YOU'RE NOT ALWAYS COMPLETE-LY HONEST.
COME ON, I KNOW YOU TOO WELL FOR THAT.


blush
ONOE-KUN
YEAH.
YOU SWEET THING!
THAT'S SO CUTE!

BUT... YOU'RE TOGETHER EVERY DAY.
BUT EVERYBODY THINKS SHE IS.
PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING ME ABOUT ANISE A LOT RECENTLY.
SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND OR ANYTHING.
THAT JUST SORTA HAPPENED.
WE GET ALONG WELL, IS ALL.
OH...
WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT WHEN YOU'RE TOGETHER?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
DON'T YOU GO TO THE MOVIES, OR OUT TO DINNER?
THEN WE PLAY GAMES, OR WATCH T.V.
SCHOOL... BASEBALL... FOOTBALL... STUFF LIKE THAT.

buzz
buzz
buzz
buzz
HEY. YOU ALONE?
YEAH. I'M ALONE
?
YOU'RE ALONE? THAT'S RARE.
WHERE'S ANISE?
SHE'S NOT HERE YET.


WHAT DO MEAN, "THEM?"
HEY.
HI, SIVA.
THEM?
THAT WAS WEIRD. WHAT'S UP WITH THEM?
HI, SIVA!
WELL....
THE MEAN GIRLS.

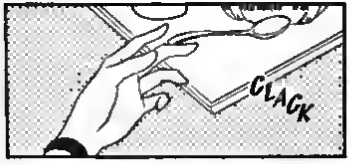
THE TWO THAT TRIP-PED ME.
IT FEELS LIKE THEY DON'T NOTICE ME ANY-MORE.

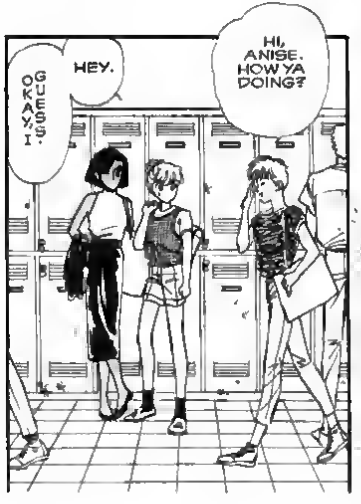
NUTHIN'.
ANY-WAY, YOU HAVE NO COM-PLAINTS, RIGHT?
QUICK. THAT WUZ
WHAT DID YOU DO?
.....
?

YOU DOING ANY-THING ON SAT-UR-DAY?

FOR A DATE LIKE THAT, I WOULD ASK A REAL WOMAN OUT.

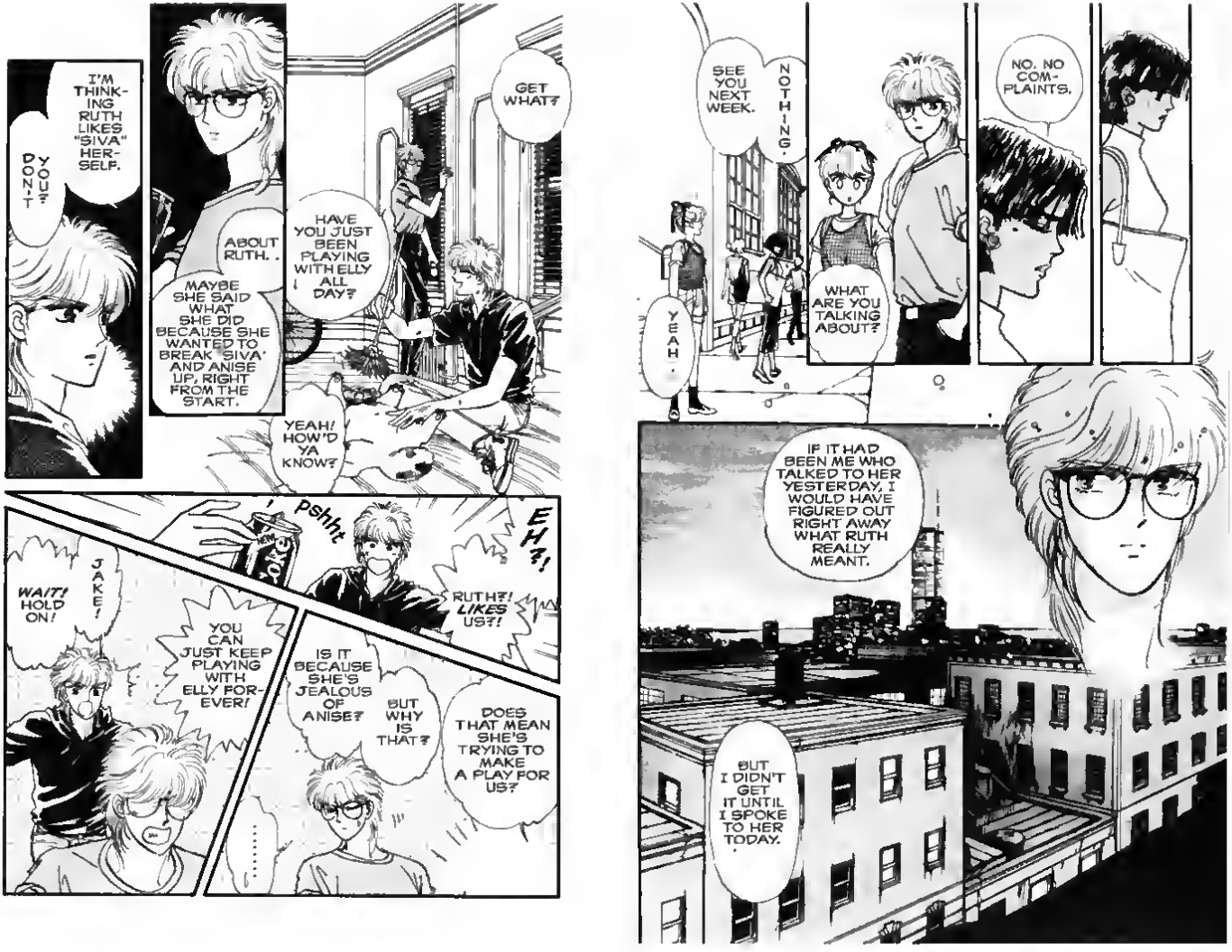
.....


CLACK

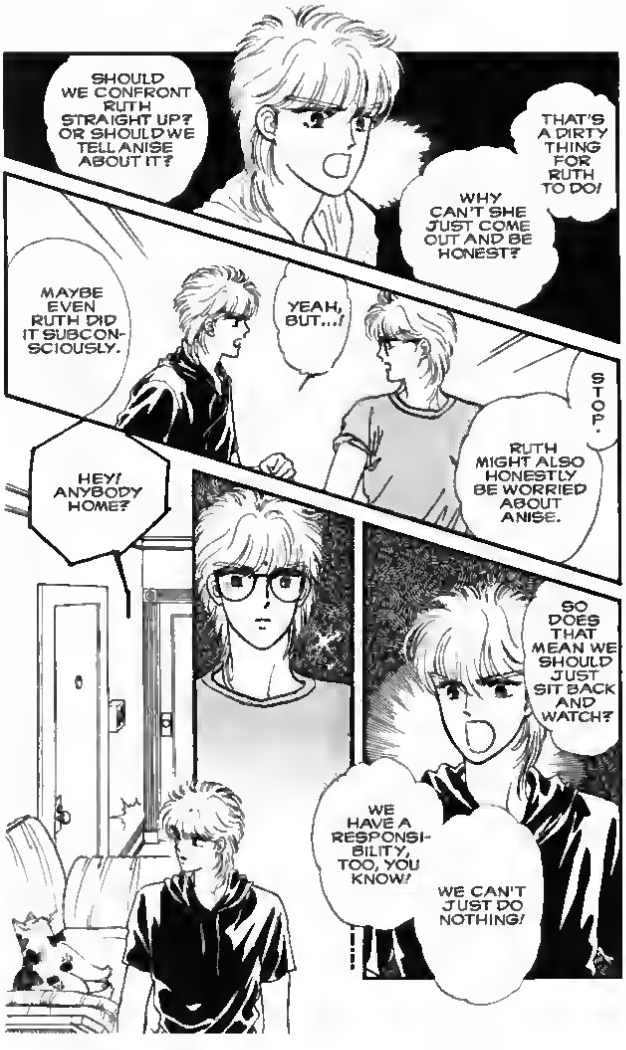

HEY.
HI, ANISE. HOW YA DOING?
OKAY, I GUESS.

.....

SHINE


I'M THINKING RUTH LIKES "SIVA" HERSELF.
DON'T YOU?
ABOUT RUTH.
MAYBE SHE SAID WHAT SHE DID BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BREAK "SIVA" AND ANISE UP, RIGHT FROM THE START.
HAVE YOU JUST BEEN PLAYING WITH ELLY ALL DAY?
GET WHAT?
YEAH! HOW'D YA KNOW?
Pshht
EH?!
RUTH?! LIKES US?!
WAIT! HOLD ON!
JAKE!
YOU CAN JUST KEEP PLAYING WITH ELLY FOREVER!
IS IT BECAUSE SHE'S JEALOUS OF ANISE?
BUT WHY IS THAT?
DOES THAT MEAN SHE'S TRYING TO MAKE A PLAY FOR US?
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK.
NOTHING.
YEAH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
NO. NO COMPLAINTS.
IF IT HAD BEEN ME WHO TALKED TO HER YESTERDAY, I WOULD HAVE FIGURED OUT RIGHT AWAY WHAT RUTH REALLY MEANT.
BUT I DIDN'T GET IT UNTIL I SPOKE TO HER TODAY.

WHAM!
ANDREW
GEORGE
EVERYTHING SHE WANTS.
SLAM
SORRY I'M LATE!
THE SHOPPING TOOK LONGER THAN I THOUGHT.
I TOLD YOU I WAS GOING TO MAKE YOU MY SPECIALTY, DIDN'T I? SO I WENT ALL THE WAY TO CHINATOWN TO SHOP.
LOOK AT THIS SHRIMP!


SHOULD WE CONFRONT RUTH STRAIGHT UP? OR SHOULD WE TELL ANISE ABOUT IT?
THAT'S A DIRTY THING FOR RUTH TO DO!
WHY CAN'T SHE JUST COME OUT AND BE HONEST?
MAYBE EVEN RUTH DID IT SUBCONSCIOUSLY.
YEAH, BUT...!
STOP.
RUTH MIGHT ALSO HONESTLY BE WORRIED ABOUT ANISE.
HEY! ANYBODY HOME?
SO DOES THAT MEAN WE SHOULD JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH?
WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY, TOO, YOU KNOW!
WE CAN'T JUST DO NOTHING!

CIPHER, LEND ME YOUR TOOTH-PASTE.
HM...
WAIT A SEC.

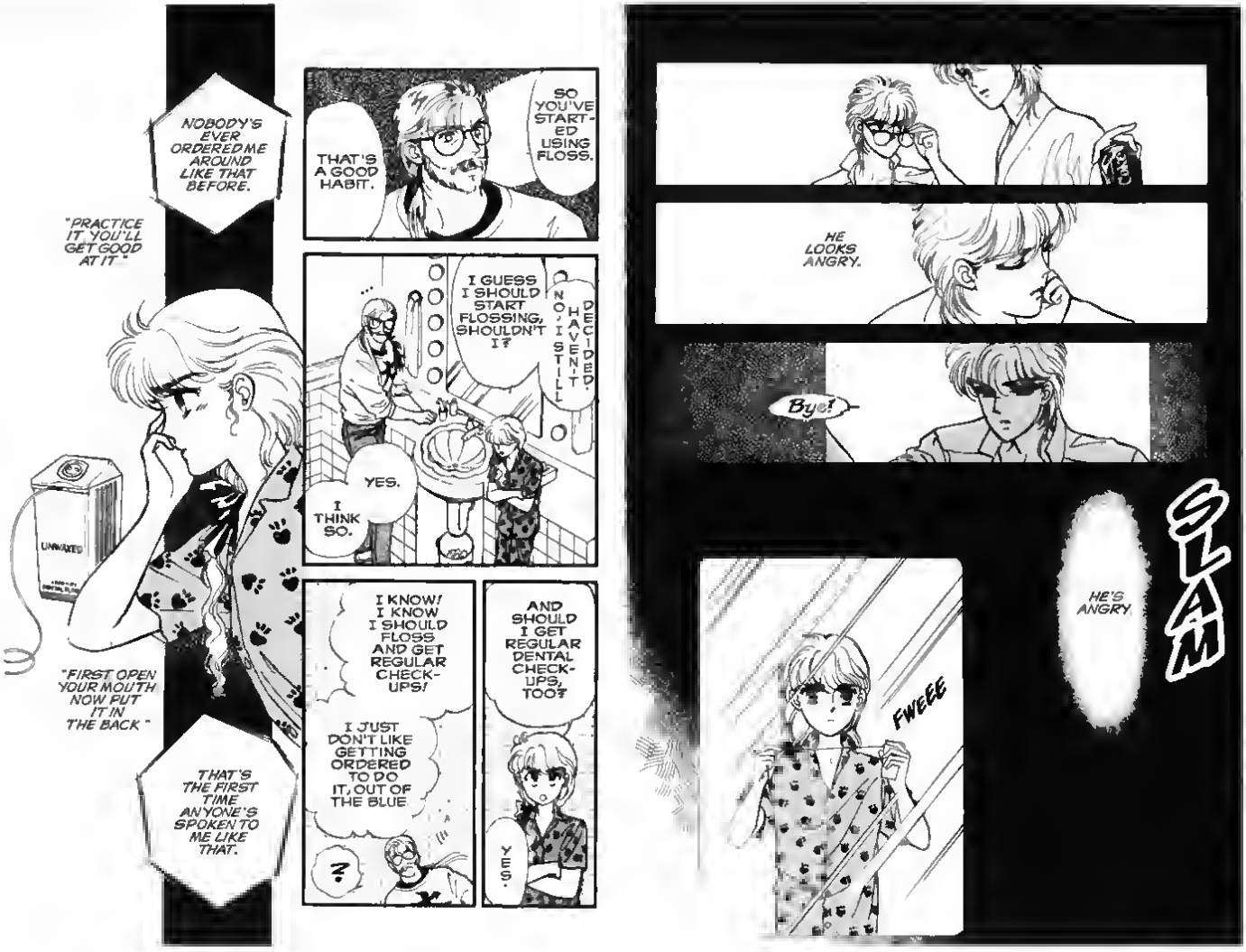
WELL? ARE YOU GONNA WARN HER? OR CON-FRONT RUTH?
WHERE'S YOUR FRYING PAN? AND YOUR KNIVES?
I'LL GET THEM.
NO..
FIRST, WE HAVE TO STRAIGHT-EN UP OUR-SELVES.
.....
HEY!
DON'T JUST WATCH ME. HELP OUT!
OKAY.
WOW! LOOK AT ALL THIS! WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
ASPAR-AGUS! I LOVE ASPARA-GUS!
YOU'LL SEE WHEN IT'S DONE.

YOU BETTER GET AN APPOINT-MENT FIRST THING MONDAY.
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE.
THAT'S NO GOOD.
NO... NOT REALLY.
HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING REGULAR CHECK-UPS?
DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE A CAVITY?
THE FLOSS IS FRAY-ING!
MAYBE.
I DON'T CARE! I'M NOT GOING!
NOBODY WILL WANT TO KISS YOU WITH A MOUTH FULL OF CAVITIES.
NO! I HATE DENTISTS.
AH...
GRIP
OH, SO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO THINK YOU'RE A DIM-WITTED BUM?
I DON'T NEED ANYBODY KISSING ME!

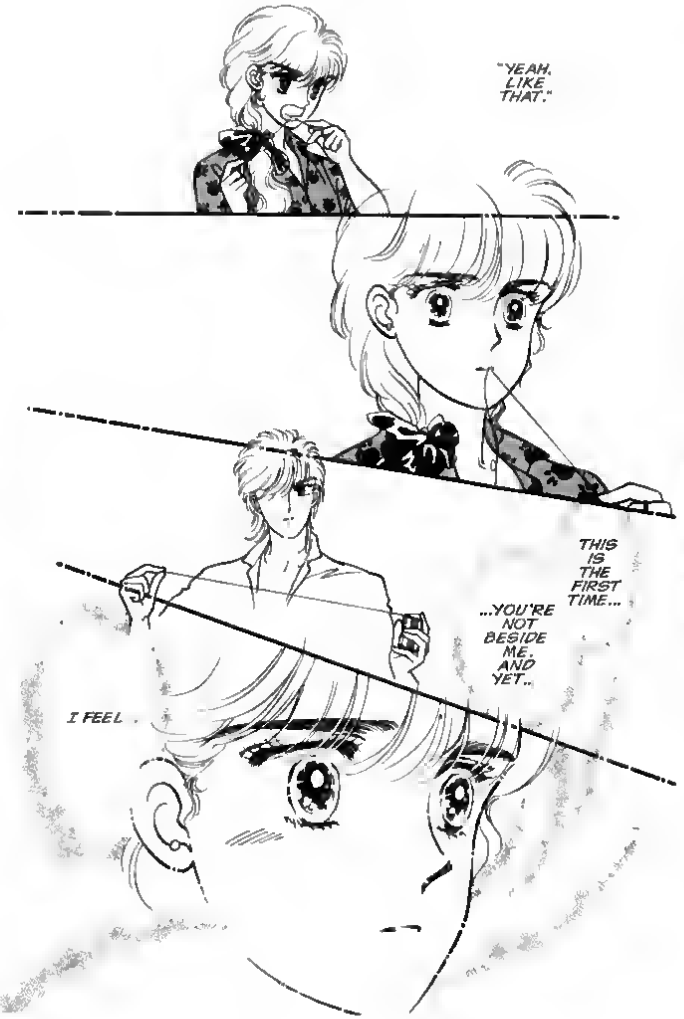
THAT'S A DARTH VADER TOOTH-BRUSH!
DO YOU BRUSH ONLY?
YOU USE DENTAL FLOSS, CIPHER?
HUH?
oh boy!
YEAH, AFTER BRUSH-ING.
PRAC-TICE IT. YOU'LL GET GOOD AT IT.
BUT I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT IT.
thread for cleaning between the teeth
UNWAXED
fweeee
FLOSS IS THE MOST IMPOR-TANT THING.
?!
THAT IS E-NOUGH NOW DO THE NEXT TOOTH.
PULL IT BACK AND FORTH
NOW PUT IT IN THE BACK.
YEAH, LIKE THAT.
LIKE THIS?
FIRST, OPEN YOUR MOUTH

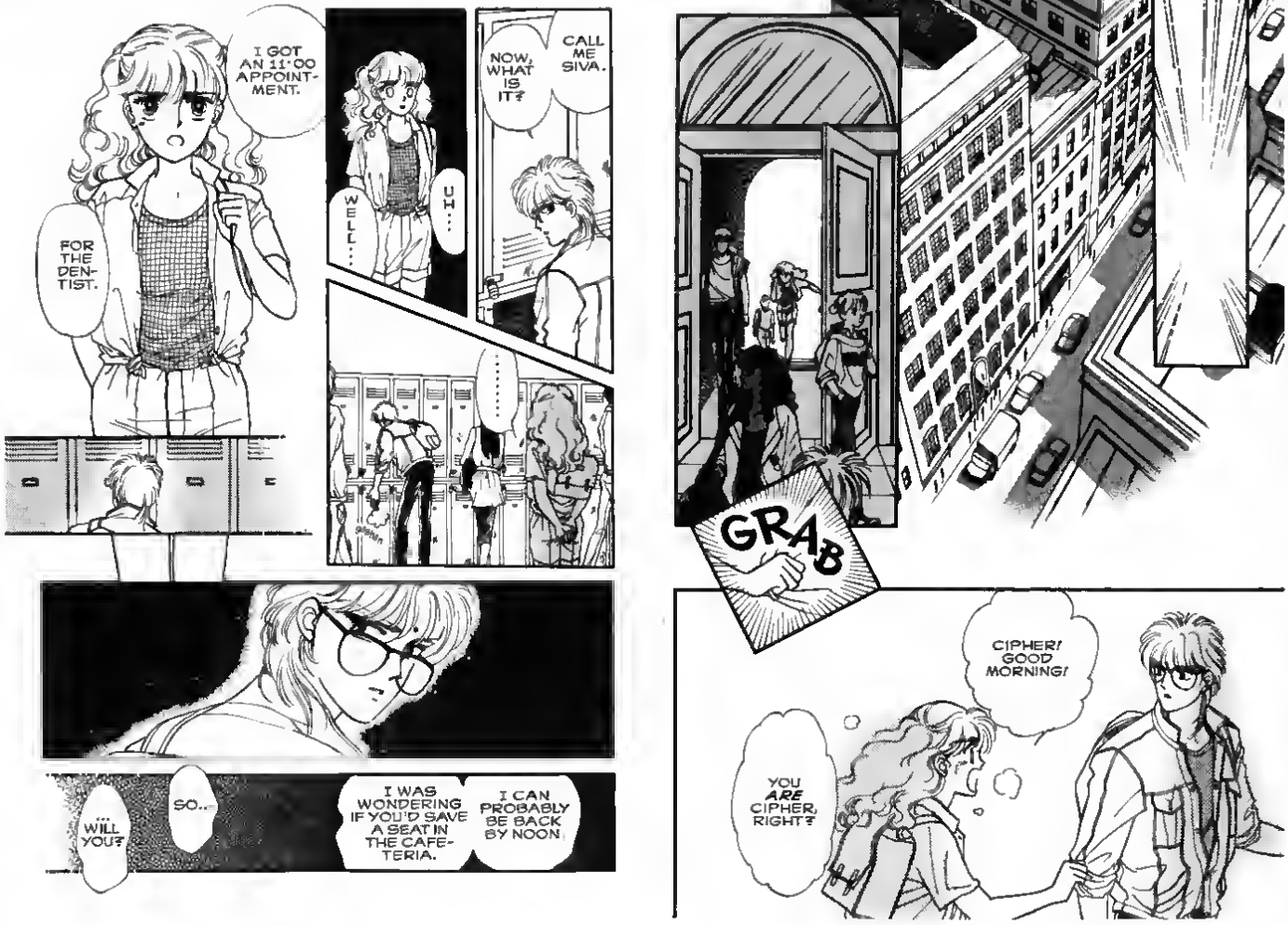
DO WHAT YOU WANT.
PLOP
IS HE ANGRY?

YOU HAVE TO GO.
NO.
I'M FREE TO DO WHAT I WANT!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO TALK TO ME LIKE YOU'RE MY PARENT?!
WHY?!
WH-


NOBODY'S EVER ORDERED ME AROUND LIKE THAT BEFORE.
"PRACTICE IT, YOU'LL GET GOOD AT IT."
"FIRST OPEN YOUR MOUTH NOW PUT IT IN THE BACK."
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME ANYONE'S SPOKEN TO ME LIKE THAT.
SO YOU'VE STARTED USING FLOSS.
THAT'S A GOOD HABIT.
I GUESS I SHOULD START FLOSSING, SHOULDN'T I?
NO, I STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED.
YES. I THINK SO.
I KNOW! I KNOW I SHOULD FLOSS AND GET REGULAR CHECK-UPS!
I JUST DON'T LIKE GETTING ORDERED TO DO IT, OUT OF THE BLUE
?
AND SHOULD I GET REGULAR DENTAL CHECK-UPS, TOO?
YES.
HE LOOKS ANGRY.
Bye!
HE'S ANGRY.
SLAM
FWEEE

CIPHER!


"YEAH. LIKE THAT."
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
...YOU'RE NOT BESIDE ME. AND YET..
I FEEL


I GOT AN 11:00 APPOINTMENT.
FOR THE DENTIST.
CALL ME SIVA.
NOW, WHAT IS IT?
UH....
WELL....
.....
I CAN PROBABLY BE BACK BY NOON.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D SAVE A SEAT IN THE CAFETERIA.
SO...
...WILL YOU?
GRAB
CIPHER! GOOD MORNING!
YOU ARE CIPHER, RIGHT?

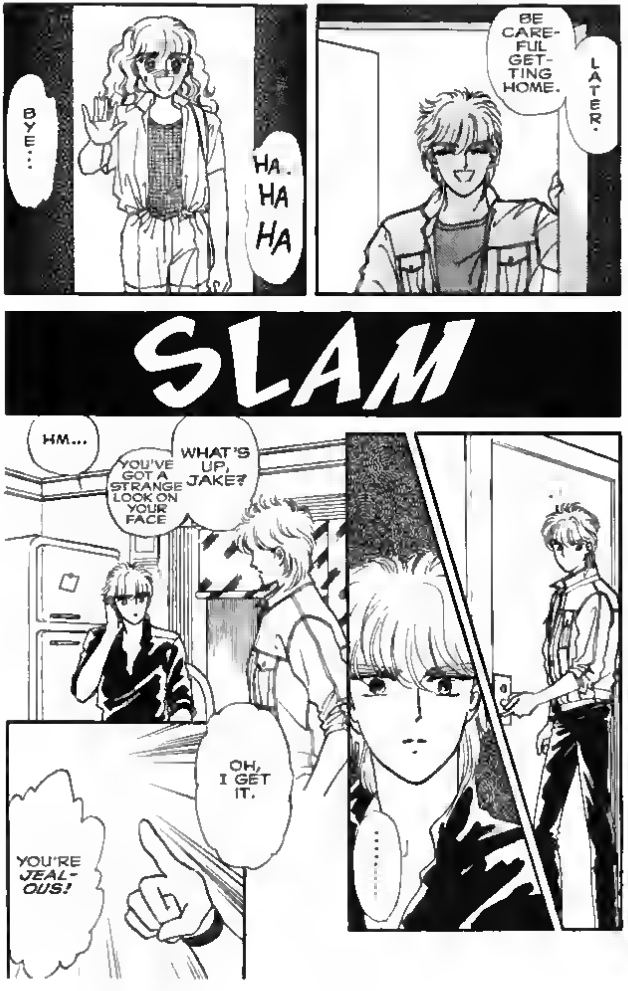
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?
I WONDER IF THEY GOT THIS IDEA FROM WATCHING OUR NEW PROMO VIDEO.
I DUN NO
I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT HOW TO PLAY AROUND WITH "CIPHER" VOL. 3.
See You Again!
PAT
DON'T BE LATE FOR THE DENTIST.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
"IF YOU MANAGE TO GET INTO HIS HEART, HE REALLY CARES ABOUT YOU."

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY!
CLENCH
IT'S OKAY.
?!
I'LL SAVE YOU A SEAT.
IT'S OKAY

WELL, I GUESS YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TODAY.
OF COURSE I KNOW THAT
OKAY, CIPHER
BUT I WANT TO COME! NOW I REALLY FEEL LIKE I WANT TO COME!
OH, WELL...
ah!
IT'S LIKE MANIPULATING PEOPLE IS YOUR SPECIALTY.
HEY!
YOU ROTTEN...
BEEP BEEP
HONK HONK
CAN YOU COME OVER TODAY?
ANISE.
.....
HMM...
HE ALSO SHOWED ME HOW TO FLOSS, BUT I'M STILL NOT TOO GOOD AT IT.
LOOKS LIKE I REALLY DID HAVE A CAVITY.
IT WAS REALLY SMALL, SO HE FIXED IT PRETTY QUICK.
I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN SPEND ALL MY TIME ON YOU GUYS, YOU KNOW.
I'M BUSY WITH OTHER STUFF, TOO.
THEN YOU CAN JUST MAKE UP THAT MUCH WORK TOMORROW.
IT'LL PUT ME BEHIND SCHEDULE ON THE QUILTS.
IT'S NOT THAT EASY!

DON'T.
DO IT.
THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT IT.
OKAY.
HE TAKES GOOD CARE OF ME.
HE DOES THAT FOR PEOPLE HE CARES ABOUT.
FINE.
ANYPLACE THAT HAS HOT DOGS.
SPUR OF THE MOMENT, JUST LIKE ALWAYS.
CAN'T WE GO SOMEPLACE CLOSER?
JUST CALL ME "SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT" ANISE.
LET'S GO TO THE ZOO!
Okay!
YOU'RE GOOD AT BEING SELFISH.
NO, I DON'T.
I WANT TO TRY IT ONCE.
DO YOU SMOKE, CIPHER?

SURE! COME ON OVER.
AND HURRY WITH THE QUILTS.
THEN ON DAYS WHEN YOU CAN'T COME TO SCHOOL...
...MIND IF I DROP BY AFTER CLASS?
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T LEAVING FOR L.A. UNTIL SUMMER VACATION.
OH, REALLY?
DON'T BE SO SELFISH.
.....
YEAH.
I BETTER GET HOME.
LATER
OKAY.
BYE, ANISE.
HEY, CIPHER.
DO YOU WANT TO KISS SOMEONE WITH NO CAVITIES?
!
.. OR NOT AROUND.
WHETHER HE'S NEAR ME...
WE'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO MEET UP WITH YOU AT SCHOOL.
WE'RE GONNA BE BUSY FOR A WHILE, TOO.


BYE...
HA. HA HA
BE CARE-FUL GET-TING HOME.
LATER.
SLAM
HM...
YOU'VE GOT A STRANGE LOOK ON YOUR FACE
WHAT'S UP, JAKE?
OH, I GET IT.
YOU'RE JEAL-OUS!
.....

Bye!
UH...
HEY
THAT'S TRIGHT
.....

BUT FOR WHICH ONE?
YEAH, I'M JEALOUS.
YOU'RE REALLY INTENSE ABOUT THIS ONE.
YEAH, YOU ARE!
EVEN I CAN FIGURE OUT THAT MUCH.
th-thump
WELL...
BUT DON'T WORRY.
I LOVE YOU MOST OF ALL, JAKE.
guri guri guri
IT'S HOW I REALLY FEEL.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE JEALOUS!
YOU NEVER GET TIRED OF THE SAME OLD LINE, DO YOU?

GRIN
HEH HEH
HUFF
HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE A BREAK FOR SOME TEA, HUH?
YOU'RE SO DEVOTED TO IT, AREN'T YOU?
I'M TOO BUSY
GLOOM
WHY DON'T YOU GO WORK QUIETLY AT YOUR DESK?
YEAH
I GUESS NOT.
..YOU NEVER KISS ON THE MOUTH, DO YOU?
IF IT'S NOT A NEAR RELATIVE OR CLOSE FRIEND..
ROB!

USE IT WELL. ♡
I KNEW YOU WOULD!
YEAH!!
YOU LIKE IT?
REAL-LY...
THANK YOU, ANISE.
SHUMP
WHERE'S CIPHER? DID HE GO OUT?
HE HAD AN EARLY MORNING SHOOT TODAY.
NAH... HE'S ASLEEP
DONE!
FINISHED JUST IN TIME! BOTH OF 'EM!
NO... IT'S GREAT.
AND I HAD TO CHEAT WITH A MACHINE TO FINISH THE BORDERS.
IT'S JUST A SIMPLE PAT-TERN.

WELL? IS CIPHER STILL ASLEEP?
YEAH.
HE'S TOTALLY CRASHED, SO LET'S LEAVE HIM BE.
WANT SOME TEA?
YEAH.
Scene 2
GRANDMA CLOCK IN HAND
The End

THAT'S MY WATCH IN HIS HAND.

CIPHER

In addition to the many pages of story and art created for *Cipher*, writer and artist Minako Narita has also produced many wonderful individual illustrations over the years featuring the main characters from this beloved series.

From time to time and as space allows, we would like to share some of these images with you. We hope that you enjoy these additional glimpses into the creative vision of this talented illustrator.

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